



異世界で

2

まいん
illustration
かぼちゃ

一度目の人生を

NIDOUME NO JINSEI WO ISEKAI DE

– Second Life in Another World –

- Volume 2 -

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[Translated by: Infinite Novel Translations]

無心に念じていると、水晶球の中心に、
小指の先ほどの小さな緑色の光が灯った。

「緑色か、適正は〈風〉だったな？」

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「いや、これで我慢とか言ったら
贅沢が過ぎる」

シオン＝ファム＝
ファタール

森の中で同業者に襲われているところを
蓮弥に助けられた見習い剣士。
少々世間知らずの気がある。

ローナ＝
シュヴァリエ

シオンと行動を共にする僧侶。
持ち前の美貌を武器に蓮弥に迫るが
何か裏があるらしく……。

「手馴れてますねえレンヤさん」

「急いで準備したから、
色々と不満は残るがね」

くぬぎ
功刀 蓮弥

大往生した末に、神様に乞われて異世界へ。
どうやら前世でいろいろやらかしていたらしく、
身体能力が異常に高い。



『君をベースにして作る作品は、
とても素晴らしいものになりそうだ』

『それは無理じゃないかな』

横線に振り抜かれた刃は、
さらに二つの人型の胴体を切り裂いて
上下二つのパーツに切り分けた。



CHAPTER 17

IT SEEMS HE WAS TAUGHT MAGIC

“Pleased to work with you. I am Khalil = Valiel (*T/N: >> Kariru = Varieru <<*). For the time being, I am Kukrika’s best magician. I’m proud of my own ability.” (Khalil)

A young woman with pinned up flaxen hair introduced herself.

She was wearing an emerald robe. The cloth was made from an unknown material that one could immediately tell was very soft on the touch. Her body was decorated with various gold and silver ornaments appearing as though they were dangling all over her.

Although it was called a robe, Renya couldn’t imagine it to be an ordinary one. It wasn’t an item covering her completely from tip to toe. Rather, at the neckline it had a big opening. Furthermore whenever she was changing her sitting position by crossing her legs, the part below her waist down to her thighs became exposed due to the deep slit the robe had.

If you were to describe the dress, you would hesitate to simply call it a robe as it simply had a far too different feel from the norm.

But even considering this, wherever you look, there is the color scheme of emerald with gold and silver. No, something like this, I have experienced such an odd view in the past as far as I can recall from deep within the corners of my mind. After a little while Renya suddenly clapped his hands together.

“It’s similar to a person dressing like a Christmas tree.” (Renya)

“What’s that?” (Shion)

Unable to comprehend, Shion, who was sitting next to him, asked in return. As one would expect, not eager to explain the expression, Renya simply shrugged his shoulders.

Even though there was a reasonable amount of Lost who had come into this world, apparently the Christmas tradition hadn’t propagated.

Either this particular holiday hasn't been taught up to this degree seeing as the Lost hadn't the leisure to do so, or it was lost with time as it wasn't of any importance to unrelated people. It was difficult to pinpoint the cause.

Without saying a word, the woman calling herself Khalil looked at him with a quizzical expression while she was sitting on the opposite side of the same ebony table they were sitting at. Her long slender fingers were entwined, joining her hands together atop the table.

Various differently sized jewels were closely assembled on these fingers as well. She had densely put on many rings made out of different materials. They reflected the white light produced by magic which brightened the dim store interior. The twinkling and glittering appearance ended up reminding Renya of lace spangled with a golden thread.

After the discussion in the early morning, Renya's arm was grabbed, even though he didn't want to go along with Shion, he was still dragged here. The place he was guided to was this location which was close to the center of the commerce district.

The light source shining in the otherwise dim store interior was provided by one single tool using magic to produce white light resembling something like a lamp. Surrounding the ebony table in the center there were things like bookshelves, display cases, and many other varying items visible.

By the way, Rona had gone to the guild to officially report on the matter of Renya joining Shion's and hers party. Because it was a mere formality, Shion and Renya acted separately from Rona.

Once again she is doing some strange secret maneuvering behind the scenes, Renya ended up concluding. But he had no means to verify it.

"You want me to teach you magic, but how did you end up reaching an age where you could become an adventurer without learning elementary magic?" (Khalil)

Returning Renya from his deep pondering, the woman before him called out.

More or less you could categorize her into the class of beautiful women. Though there was nothing you could complain about in regards to her looks, she applied quite a thick layer of make-up.

Considering the combination with the suffocating amount of accessories, she gave off a comprehensively gaudy impression.

It might be typical for her age. But because of this, one could easily end up viewing her as old although she could only be no more than 2 or 3 years older than Shion and Renya if you considered her properly.

If she were to aim for a slightly more natural look, she should end up looking quite cute too, Renya thought. *Because those thoughts are related around my own tastes and preferences, I won't thoughtlessly speak these thoughts aloud, though.* Thus Renya remained silent.

"That's because Renya is a Lost." (Shion)

Instead of the silent Renya, Shion said so. Khalil's gaze turned into something resembling that of someone examining a rare animal.

As it wasn't a very comfortable feeling being watched like that, Renya's own expression turned sour.

"I am sorry if I caused you to feel discomfort." (Khalil)

"No, although it isn't something pleasant, I think it can't be helped." (Renya)

Actually the inhabitants of this world observing a Lost gives off the same feeling as the people from my former world watching a rare animal, Renya thought.

Although he understood it, but no matter how willingly they received him, this uncomfortable feeling was an entirely different matter.

"That means there was no magic in your world?" (Khalil)

"Yeah, in my world magic was nothing more than a sleight of hand." (Renya)

As Renya replied in such way, Khalil visibly exhaled in comprehension.

"It is because Shion said something like her wanting me to teach someone in magic. I only thought it would be a younger boy coming but instead someone like you turned up here? It made me wonder whether there was some kind of mistake." (Khalil)

“Although I somehow don’t understand the meaning of what you said, I comprehend the intention of your question. But is it really that unusual? Even though things may appear this way, for the time being I am only 18 years old.” (Renya)

“It is because those aiming to become adventurers enter the guild around the age of 14 to 15 years. As soon as they earn a little bit of money, they immediately come here to take lessons in elementary magic. If they decide to become magicians, they move on to search for another master in order to become their disciple for an extended period.” (Khalil)

With these words, Khalil leaned back atop the chair and took out one bundle of enveloped papers from within the shelves in the rear.

Among the things surprising Renya since coming to this world was the fact that paper existed.

Be it for some reason, but he arbitrarily conjectured that the culture level of this world was about the same as the medieval age of his former world. He thought that the technique of manufacturing paper did not yet exist. But the technique to boil plants in order to extract the fiber for making paper was wide spread in this world.

“I will teach you magic right away by using this list of spells. For the first page of the list it is 5 silver coins and from the second page onwards it is 50 silver coins per page.” (Khalil)

Although the amount of money abruptly sky-rocketed, Renya before long realized the meaning after looking over the list and thus avoided asking any pointless questions.

The spells described on the first page of the list were such things as 「Ignite Fire」 and 「Desalination」. Those were the kind of spells that were generally used to ease every day life. On the second page there were spells written like 「Small Fire Ball」 and 「Ice Stone」. Going by their names, it was obvious that those were used as offensive magic.

“Shall I check your aptitude before we discuss which kind of spells you should memorize?” (Khalil)

“Yes?” (Renya)

“It’s about your aptitude in magic and your magical attribute. Though we will abridge the process as it takes quite a long time if you perform it in detail. You have to find out how skilled and talented one is in using magic and also such things like from which system one should memorize the spells in order to fully utilize one’s skill. It is something like forming a guideline for the sake of training.” (Khalil)

Saying this, Khalil twisted her upper body and faced towards the back. From the same shelf she had retrieved the papers, she took out a large fist-sized, transparent crystal ball.

She heavily flopped it down atop the table and rolled it in the direction of Renya.

Receiving it, Renya placed it on his palm and inspected it very closely.

“It isn’t anything that unusual. In reality it is a cheap article that you can make as many as you wish, as long as you have the material and pay one gold coin in handling charges. But, oh well, this thing will be sufficient.” (Khalil)

“How do you use it?” (Renya)

Renya asked while lightly rolling it around on top of his palm.

Bending herself forward across the table, Khalil grasped the ball which was rolling around on top of Renya’s palm. As she was tightly holding it as it was, she lifted it in front of Renya’s face.

“That’s easy. As you focus your consciousness upon it and pray to it, this ball will shine. In any case, as the magical power flows into it, it will leave behind a trace of its strength and density. I guess as a Lost you won’t understand that, huh?” (Khalil)

“Look!” she presented the crystal ball. “You are right.” Renya nodded his head while receiving it once more.


Being watched attentively by Shion and Khalil, he took one long deep breath. After making sure his feelings had been calmed, Renya focused his consciousness on the crystal ball.

If there is no change whatsoever with this, it will somewhat turn into quite the ridiculous scene right away, won’t it? He thought by accident. Because he worried that having too many unnecessary thoughts would result in influencing the result badly, he

completely drove away those obstructing thoughts. After a few seconds, in the center of the crystal ball, a small green light with the size of a pinky finger ignited.

“Green color, huh? The aptitude is <Wind>?” (Shion)

“That’s true but... this is somewhat...” (Khalil)



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Although Khalil wanted to agree with Shion's identification, her expression seemed troubled.

Is there some kind of a problem? Renya wondered. Khalil snatched the crystal ball from Renya's hand again, tossing it casually into the shelf in the back.

Causing a heavy sound, the crystal ball landed somewhere within the shelf. *Will such irresponsible handling be fine?* He became slightly worried.

"Going by the conclusion, your attribute is wind and in addition to that you have quite the affinity with it." (Khalil)

Now that she mentions it, before coming to this world, I got a skill from that little girl. It must have been the skill to use magic from the Wind system, he recalled.

Most likely it had been that blessing, Renya judged. But he couldn't recall the whole conversation any more.

"However, the amount of mana is hopelessly scarce. It doesn't exceed half of the maximum amount of ordinary people." (Khalil)

"With only that light, you are able to tell this much?" (Renya)

"There is nothing to criticize about the green color. Up to there it was an unusually clear variation of appearance, but ... The size of the light was too small." (Khalil)

Usually it was shining on the whole crystal ball albeit faintly.

In case of magicians, who possessed talent, it was shining radiantly. There were even records of the ball being broken in a flash of light when a hero used it.

If it was put like this, certainly there was no other way but to call the light from before tiny.

Shion, who was listening next to him, nodded her head in agreement with an *Un un*

"If I remember correctly the time I used it, it shone faintly across the whole ball." (Shion)

"By the way, what colour was it?" (Renya)

Renya asked for reference. For some reason delighted, Shion replied,

“It was light green. I have the same aptitude as Renya, Wind.” (Shion)

“As for the maximum amount of mana, since you can increase it little by little through usage, I think you can improve it to a certain extent. But, considering your starting amount, you better not expect too much from magic.” (Khalil)

Although it was a slightly shocking announcement for Renya, he originally came from a world where such power didn’t exist to begin with. Thus he was able to agree with the outcome of having too little power with that maximum amount.

Rather, here I possess the greatest power, or at least that’s what you can call it in the end. Without doubt I have to ask myself what the hell I did during my life in my previous world if I properly think about it.

Even if you could call it hopeless, since it is possible to improve it, I am able to use it to some extent. As such, Renya asked Khalil about a crucial matter.

“In order to increase the maximum amount of mana, is there some efficient training regimen, I wonder?” (Renya)

Khalil held out her left palm in silence.

Instead of Renya, who became uncertain due to not understanding the meaning, Shion asked .

“How much?” (Shion)

“7 silver coins.” (Khalil)

In response to Khalil’s curt answer, Shion dropped 7 silver coins on top of Khalil’s palm.

Accepting those, Khalil this time beckoned Renya with her right hand.

Continuing to beckon him, she brought her face close to Renya’s forehead as she bent herself over the table. Khalil crammed her hand quickly into her chest and retrieved a single paper tag.¹

“Bestowal, < Light >” (Khalil)

The paper tag all of a sudden dissolved in the atmosphere, similar to ice being thrown into seething hot water, and vanished.

< Information: Due to external interference, the non-attribute magic 「Light」 has been bestowed. In case of accepting it, it will be come available for usage. Do you accept? >

Without hesitation Renya accepted.

“Spell, according to my power, let there be Light.” (Renya)

“I have heard that you reached the point that you could use spells easily without thought by just receiving the authority of application. Seeing it happening I can only agree to it.” (Khalil)

Although Khalil displayed a startled expression, Renya didn’t notice it as he was immersed in his own thoughts.

Upon thinking about it now, for Renya such principles or theories, like being someone able to acquire skills or in contrast someone unable to acquire them, vanished. He simply used them as if they were some command.

Albeit parents can increase the number of children endlessly, children can’t make children or grandchildren without becoming parents themselves.²

At any rate, although it was no more than simply using it, he didn’t comprehend the reason why he could use it just like that.

“... I heard the rumours, but Lost are really outside the norm.” (Khalil)

Khalil told him in admiration as she sensed that Renya had comprehended something.

It looks like the common folks aren’t aware of this truth and the magicians don’t convey this truth to anyone but other magicians either, he thought.

It will probably be a convenient skill for a magician to earn some coins.

However there is no idiot that would leak this information to the outside just to earn

some income.

As Shion didn't understand what those two were talking about, she watched the exchange between those two with a somewhat blank expression.

"So, what kind of relation does this have with the training regimen?" (Renya)

"Didn't I tell you before? It will improve by keeping on using magic. In other words, it is fine to use any kind of magic as long as you are determined to keep using it. That's the training to extend your maximum amount of mana. Usually, at the time this training is done, you use this Light spell in order to practice your magic." (Khalil)

Other spells from the elementary magic were nothing but spells to make something or to influence the surroundings by causing some effect. However, producing illumination by light was no problem whatsoever, be it during daytime, although totally pointless due to the sun shining, or be it during night time as simple substitute for a lamp.

"At first I thought I was tricked looking at this method of training but after doing it for a while I will come back ." (Renya)

"Khalil... that is, how did you transfer this spell?" (Shion)

With feeling of nervousness Shion inquired about it. Khalil leaned back on the chair while turning her head left and right.

"It is futile. Although it will be okay to teach you as well, you won't be able to use it well enough, will you?" (Khalil)

"Muu ..." (Shion)

"Shion, for now I was taught the training method. After improving a bit, let's have Khalil teach me another spell again. As it is now, no matter how many spells I am taught, there won't be any point as I won't be able to practice those spells due to my lacking power." (Renya)

Shion, who had been dissatisfied for some reason or another, consented for the time being as she was soothed by Renya's words.

"I see. Well then, Khalil, we will be back, please take care of us at that time." (Shion)

“Yeah, yeah, you can entrust it to me... Putting that aside, Shion, didn’t your mental attitude change somehow?” (Khalil)

Since their business was finished, Renya stood up.

To Shion, who left her seat and chased after him, Khalil called out.

“You took a man as your companion. Haven’t you become more like a normal adventurer?” (Khalil)

“I was a normal adventurer to begin with!” (Shion)

“Fun, he~, ho~” (Khalil)

Khalil didn’t believe in Shion’s words at all, or rather she acted as if she hadn’t really heard them. With a slightly huffy expression, Shion continued.

“In the first place, didn’t you decline my invitation to join us?” (Shion)

For a party a magician was necessary. Although Shion had invited Khalil on Rona’s recommendation, she was quite easily refused.

At that time the reason for Khalil’s rejection was that it was a lot more comfortable to earn income by care-freely teaching elementary magic in the city or something along those lines.

“Who would enter such a dangerous party consisting of only 3 women?” (Khalil)

“That is... certainly you could say that. Because I thought about that too, I asked Renya to become our companion.” (Shion)

“I see. ...Ma, good luck in earning money before coming here again. I am looking forward to it.” (Khalil)

“Ah, I will be back. Well then, see you.” (Shion)

Lightly waving her hand as she was watching Shion leaving the room, Khalil joined her hands behind her head. As if she had seen something amusing, she was broadly grinning and smiling.

“I wonder what that almost emotionless Rona with her half-baked skill in smiling will do about this.” (Khalil)

Well then, although I haven't done anything else but teaching him the training method, I wonder how far he will grow before coming here the next time, Khalil thought while being reminded of her blonde haired friend's face as she muttered those words.

CHAPTER 17.5

IT SEEMS TO BE INTERLUDE 4

– In a room of the adventurer’s guild in the commercial city Kukrika –

The Deputy Branch Leader Fritz waited for a certain person to arrive in this room that had been assigned to for him for his personal use.

“Excuse me” (-)

The door of the room quietly opened and after bowing the person, who just arrived, entered. The person looked at Fritz with a gentle smile while greeting.

As far as I know this person, this is certainly a rare occurrence, thought Fritz to a certain degree. On Fritz’ face there wasn’t any trace of maliciousness or hideous schemings being planned.

He wore an expression as if he completely welcomed his visitor from the bottom of his heart.

There wasn’t any person in this city at all, to whom this Deputy Branch Leader showed such an expression.

“I am delighted that you were able to visit my humble self. So, how did it go with the issue at hands?” (Fritz)

His words were completely free of sarcasm and ill will.

Fritz offered the visitor the chair, which had been prepared in the room in advance, while asking. Rona sat down on the chair that had been offered to her as she confronted Fritz.

Although she displayed a smile on her face similar to the one she wore when she came with Shion, the mood at that time couldn’t be compared to the gentle and tender mood now at all.

Without showing any signs of distrust or suspicion, Fritz waited for Rona’s response.

“Somehow I was able to reach an agreement.” (Rona)

A feeling of relief could be sensed somewhere within these words.

Fritz’ smile deepened as well.

“That is extremely splendid. Although your own responsibility should become a little bit lighter too with this, didn’t you use an considerably high-handed move?” (Fritz)

As he heard of her move beforehand, he knew that it wasn’t a proper way for a woman to conduct herself, especially one that had a social standing to such an extent. But as he was the original proposer himself, Fritz wasn’t able to put up a strong opposition to it either.

To Fritz’ words which seemed to be concerned about Rona’s body, Rona slowly shook her head.

“Since this is my mission, I didn’t think or worry about this matter.” (Rona)

She punctuated her words after pondering for a little while.

“Even so, I wish you to take these as a little comfort, too.” (Fritz)

Medicine, although Rona was laughing slightly, Fritz began to become flustered.

Even though Rona understood that his panicked state and his feeling of guiltiness came from Fritz’ heart, if Shion were to see him now, she would be wondering in surprise just what kind of magic Rona had used on him.

From Shion’s standpoint, this Deputy Branch Leader was a disgusting person, who was arrogant, without a shred of worry about others and always full of sarcasm.

However, the words spoken by Fritz were filled with an attitude of wanting to express his apology.

“There is nothing to apologize for ...” (Rona)

Although Fritz tried to stand up from his chair in order to bow his head, Rona stopped him.

“This is also work on top of being my duty. Because of that I can understand it quite well.” (Rona)

“Although it is what His Excellency has ordered, by only pushing nothing but difficult matters on you ...” (Fritz)

That is to say, it was about the reason for Shion’s dislike towards Fritz which was at the level of detestation. For the entire time since Shion registered as an adventurer it looked like the troublesome requests no one wanted to do were pushed on them. Also, in regards to the achievements of the requests, whenever they almost resolved something, the reward was reduced and small penalties forced upon them. It looked like he devoted himself to do nothing but harassing them.

However, those were the orders in such situations, Rona finished the sentence.

Although they both were in the same situation, it could be said that Fritz harassment was only aimed towards Shion. And that wasn’t Fritz’ intention either. The difference was that those were orders from a somewhere different place and as result he had no other option but to operate like that.

“I guess it’s painful to play the role of being loathed because it is difficult, huh?” (Rona)

In reverse Rona bowed her head which caused Fritz to wave his hands in panic.

“Please stop it. For a lowly person like me ...” (Fritz)

“Originally it is unusual for the guild to assist in such matters. To yield to this cooperation and to additionally support it, I am very grateful. There is no reason for me to think of you as lowly at all.” (Rona)

“When you put it like that, I feel slightly relieved by your kind words. Then... now this Lost will join your party, you said...” (Fritz)

Fritz began to ask a question like seeking directions to which Rona displayed a nod.

“Yes, although it is beyond expectation to gain a Lost as companion, he can be trusted to some extent. He is a person with abilities that can be placed at our side. Looking at the experience after one month (*T/N: of adventuring*), Shion-sama isn’t listening to words about quitting as an adventurer anymore either. If this is the case, there is no problem with continuing as is. That’s what I plan to report to His Excellency.” (Rona)

“Well then, the maneuvering of the guild too?” (Fritz)

“Yes, for the finale this time, it is satisfactory to return to the usual. Even if I consider to officially report it to His Excellency at a later time.” (Rona)

“That’s the best way. Then, will Rona-sama return to your previous official post?” (Fritz)

“No, I will continue with this mission after that. I fear that it’s likely that it will be like that until the end, huh?” (Rona)

As Rona said this she laughed while in contrast Fritz’ facial expression became clouded.

It was an expression showing that he didn’t believe Rona’s words to be an overly nice prospect.

“Although it is difficult for me to say as Deputy Branch Leader of the adventurer’s guild, for the Chevalier (*T/N: >> Shubarie <<*) household to say that the adventurer occupation will be continued, is...” (Fritz)

Those occupied as adventurers were sad existences and the occupation itself couldn’t be called honorable.

There were many fights and likewise the life was often in danger.

Although they couldn’t go ahead and announce it publicly because of the requests, there weren’t few who violated the laws.

Of course such requests which involved murder or theft weren’t accepted, but such things like deciding to breaking and trespassing into areas prohibited by the state were fairly frequent occurrences.

To the speech and standpoint of someone who could be called in charge of these, Rona could only smile bitterly.

Although having deliberately repeated his concerns in this matter, she couldn’t believe in the words of a person with such standpoint.

“If you go as far as saying these things, what do you think will be the best course for

Shion? Maa, although I am more or less the eldest daughter, if I had remained within the household, I would be married off somewhere at best. I wonder if that would be preferable then.” (Rona)

“Mu ... muu” (Fritz)

Raising his voice with groans, Fritz didn’t look like he would continue his speech, Rona comprehended as she was watching him.

“Besides, there is a younger sister below me. Even in the situation that my sister, who is skilled in various things, were to be married off somewhere, she would be able to handle it more proficiently than I.” (Rona)

Although Rona laughed while she said this, Fritz sank into silence as he didn’t know how to answer properly anymore.

Since the person herself said this while smiling and laughing, she would think badly of him if he were to deny her completely. On the other hand, if he ended up affirming it just like that, Fritz would end up admitting that Rona is inferior to her sister. Thus he ended up in a dead end. *(T/N: regarding the argumentation or in other words lose-lose situation)*

As a result Fritz was only able to groan without forming coherent words. Although Rona seemed to enjoy observing him for a little while, she didn’t have an intention to embarrass him. Thus she muttered a single thing in order rescue Fritz who was caught in his thoughts of having no way out of this situation. (E: The Japanese are very into small talk, and politely remaining quiet is not really an option for them. Thus, verbal traps like this can be laid.)

“Given the situation as it is, please confirm the formalities for Renya-san to join Shion’s party.” (Rona)

“I understand. I will see to it at once.” (Fritz)

“After sending the report to His Excellency, I shall return to Shion-sama’s side. Ah, which reminds me.” (Rona)

As if she suddenly remembered, Rona looked at Fritz and asked.

“Are there any houses attached with a workshop in this city? Please tell me” (Rona)

The adventurer guild was also a place where various different information streamed in.

Certainly the person, who became Deputy Branch Leader of such place, would have a connection to real estate information as well. Rather than Rona and Renya going to look by themselves, directly obtaining a large amount of information would be more beneficial, Rona thought as she asked this question. Fritz picked up on another meaning though.

“That is... because you want the mission base to be placed in one place? Well, then you will have to have money lent from somewhere, too...” (Fritz)

Also, she was looking for several objects close to the best district in the city aka the central district, Rona commanded Fritz.

“That won’t work. To begin with, what reason do you intend to give Shion for this?” (Rona)

“That is... as an apology for the inconveniences up till now ...” (Fritz)

Since the harassment wouldn’t improve either, it was an attempt to give a large apology here. Although Fritz desired to wipe the slate clean for the incidents until now, Rona wouldn’t approve of that.

“I understand your feelings but it’s still no good. In that situation it would end up being exposed by the guild’s cooperative workers immediately, isn’t that right? Even Shion-sama isn’t such a bottomless baka. After requesting the guild’s cooperation, it would end up reaching His Excellency’s ears right away.” (Rona)

“...Truthfully, that’s quite the nasty remark, isn’t it?” (Fritz)

Fritz looked at Rona with slightly scornful eyes in response to Rona’s careless statement.

“Since it’s me, it’s fine.” (Rona)

“Haa~...” (Fritz)

“Because the money will be raised by our party, only the information on the property is required. Please be as kind to keep this placed in a corner of your mind.” (Rona)

“Understood.” (Fritz)

“Please take care to keep it a secret from Shion. And furthermore, please be careful around Renya-san as well. Since that man has fairly keen senses, I guess?” (Rona)

As Rona gave him a warning and emphasized it, Fritz nodded his head in consent to each point.

After sufficient confirmation, Rona left her seat.

“Well then, with this my business here is done. Contact me, if something should happen.” (Rona)

“I shall humbly comply. Please, take care of yourself.” (Fritz)

As she was departing, Rona replied with a beaming smile to Fritz, who anxiously spoke those words being worried about her, and left behind the room of the Deputy Branch Manager.

There is no way that his anxiety has calmed down yet, huh? although she was already fed up with this whole issue, Rona pondered about her appointment to guard Shion. *Well, I have some uncertainties regarding this as well, but since excessive worry can't be called a good thing either, there is no point in brooding over it,* she thought to herself.

“Just where did I go wrong to have strayed from the right path, I wonder?” (Rona)

She looked down on her priest's garb and felt like her body was pressed hard and tightly constricted, while she grumbled this complaint.

Even though the equipment she wore, before she had to pursue this mission, was always something light and easy to move in, now she constantly questioned just how much her current outfit fit the role of a priest while considering her own state.

All in all, paying attention to the people nearby, as result she saw herself drawing the attention of the surroundings upon herself. But she had no other option but to endure the stares.

“I, although it is hard to say so myself, but will this situation remain always like this?” (Rona)

Rona somewhat wished to be pardoned from that.

Even if I try to complain, there is no one that would return a reply here. Rona heaved a small deep sigh.

CHAPTER 18

IT SEEMS TO BE THE BEGINNING OF TRAINING

“For a while we won’t take on any work.” (Renya)

Those were Renya’s words and although Rona and Shion were somewhat surprised they didn’t raise their voices in opposition either.

After being taught about magic in Khalil’s shop, Rona reunited with Renya and Shion at the inn. She immediately started to talk with Shion about taking up some work and thus he told them bluntly like this.

In order to earn their income they had to work and yet why did he say such a thing like not doing any work, although Rona asked this of Renya, he clearly answered her in this way:

“I am not quite able to grasp the extend of my own abilities yet.” (Renya)

What he can do and what he can’t do, as well as to what degree he was able to do certain things was the fundamental information he had to obtain for understanding his abilities, Renya explained.

What was the difference in understanding one’s own state, Shion wondered.

Although you certainly could ask that, Renya stated as preface, while unsure how far he should tell them.

“To tell you the truth, at the time when I came to this world, almost all of my memories of my previous life ended up vanishing. Therefore, the memories of what I did and how I lived in my previous life, I am not clear about those circumstances.” (Renya)

“You have lost your memories? However, considering that, you don’t look like someone being overly thrown into confusion by that state either. Didn’t you call yourself a Lost right after we met each other?” (Shion)

As a matter of fact I met god and was requested to transfer here, that was something Renya naturally simply couldn’t tell them.

Although he didn't really mind telling them either, he just didn't think that they would believe him. It wouldn't be too bad if they would only make fun of him, but if they concluded it to be a mental illness it would become bothersome.

"That's something I don't understand well either. At any rate, I likewise haven't experienced such a thing like crossing over to another world. In regards to my self-introduction, I just have a slight sense of doing something like that in that situation. However, where I learned of it, I can't really recall at all." (Renya)

Since there was no method to verify the authenticity of his words, if he insisted on not being able to remember the knowledge, it would be accepted as truth.

Also, the one being capable of proving his words as lies and possibly being called upon to stand witness was none other than that little girl, who was somewhere far away underneath the sky.

"Furthermore, apart from all this, although I accepted already that there is nothing that can be done about this situation, won't it be troublesome in a crisis, if I don't understand how far my own abilities go and what I am able to do?" (Renya)

"Well, that's certainly true." (Shion)

Although holding a sword in his hands, there was no baka who would wield it without understanding how to use a blade.

Wasn't this an argument Shion could understand very clearly? She nodded deeply towards Renya's words.

"Therefore, for a little while, I want to confirm it by training myself some. That's simply it." (Renya)

"Indeed, I understand. Since we have received the reward for our previous request, we should be fine for a while, no, Ro?" (Shion)

"Yea, but how much time do you need?" (Rona)

"I think I will be able to manage with 2 days. Though I'd like to continue training for longer. That would be the compromise." (Renya)

Now then, how should I bring up this matter? Renya pondered.

“I wonder, is there any suitable place close to the city where I can go on a rampage without causing any problems?” (Renya)

Although he tried to think about it, but since he wasn't able to reach a conclusion, Renya followed the conversation flow as is and tried asking Shion.

Shion, who didn't really seem like she would have any kind of useful information at all in relation to such matters or rather related to everything in general, returned readily an answer to him.

“If that's the case, the plain area once you leave the northern gate would be good.” (Shion)

According to Shion, the outskirts of this city, although no matter through which gate you exited, it was all plains. But the plain outside the northern gate was called the least dangerous area.

In addition, the monsters appearing there could be called nothing but weak. Walking on foot for a few hours you would reach the group of mountains harboring the 「Tomb of the Recluse」. In other words, the area past the gate apparently was empty.

Past the gates except the northern one, there was a reasonable amount of monsters. Apart from that, it was used as agricultural land. Given that there were always monsters or people there, it might become a nuisance to someone if he went on a rampage there.

As for the area past the northern gate, because the soil there wasn't good, it wasn't used as agricultural land either. Although there were quite a few swordsmen and magicians endeavoring in destructive activities in the name of training, there hadn't been any complaints delivered about it even now.

“Although it is the place I had been taken care of with difficulty too, there really is nothing there at all. Even though it might be mere pretense, Khalil said she went there and blasted it full of holes at the time she wanted to vent her stress.” (Shion)

“If there is no fallout if I go that far, then that place sounds good.” (Renya)

Having decided this, early next morning, Renya, who always woke up earlier than Shion's group, left his room and grabbed the bentou he had ordered from the inn's staff the day before. After gulping down the breakfast, he couldn't think of as

appetizing after all, he left the inn.

Given that all of his luggage was stored in the [Inventory], he was satisfyingly in the condition of being empty-handed. The received bentou was stowed away into the [Inventory] as well. And thus he headed straight for the northern gate.

Renya began to run and grasped his fist tightly. Quite strong light leaked out between his fingers.

That was the magic he started to practice last night.

As soon as he returned to his own room in the inn, although he tried to use it, because he had a hopelessly small amount of magic power as even attested by a specialist, he became dizzy after using a single light source spell.

Even though it calmed down almost immediately, this dizziness is owed to running low on magic power for sure, Renya conjectured.



Since this wasn't something like a game, there was no hint of a numerical reading of his remaining magic power.

Let's use it carefully, huh? After using it once, pause for a while, then use it again and rest afterwards. While doing that, Renya understood what kind of magic [Light] was.

At first he couldn't adjust the brightness.

Reciting the spell to cause light, at least I understand so far, huh? Well the condition I don't understand is how to change the strength of the light, I guess? Although Is it a problem with the mental image? he thought too. Imagining the light resembling a flash of burning magnesium while reciting the spell, Renya felt he was able to cause no more than a light source emitting the luminescence of an average flashlight in the surroundings.

What's the best thing to do? I don't know. Somehow there should be a help function in a situation like this to provide assistance, don't you agree? He thought while looking at the light. Then a message appeared in the lower area of his field of vision.

<Information : Help Function – Regarding the strength of magic – The strength of a magic spell is determined by the first part of the chant. Although there are variations like [According to my power] < [Congregate, my power] < [Change into the source of my power] < [My power shall be devoted], In the case of bestowing power, any chanting part above [Congregate, my power] becomes impossible to be used. Further methods resemble the classification of strength. The proportional application of the quantity of magic power isn't possible here, the same as in the case of bestowing power.>

“The method to remove the limit of power?” (Renya)

Certainly a convenient function, he thought while trying to state his question.

<Information : Help Function – The method to release the restriction on the application of magic: It is necessary to transcribe the corresponding symbol of each magic spell into memory. Do you request for a limit release for the currently available [Light]?>

So it is possible, he thought while the limit release was executed. After experiencing a light pain in the area of his forehead, a single figure appeared within Renya's mind.

How to call it ...? Although it was a difficult to describe character resembling the shape of something like a drawing, apparently it was the symbol necessary for releasing the limit.

<Information: Concerning the execution of limit release for the non-attribute magic spell – Applied symbol: Master key of non-attribute.>

“...So it isn’t only for [Light]...?” (Renya)

Originally, the corresponding symbol of each magic spell had to be earnestly memorized. As this was the key to release the limit on the different magic spells, it became possible at this point to do such things as adjusting the magic spell by using magic power while chanting. This help function burned all of the magic spells related to the non-attribute magic with the corresponding symbol into Renya’s mind. It obviously omitted the operation to execute all of them one at a time in the end.

Since I received various abilities, isn’t this type of function too much of a cheat? Renya wondered. But since he couldn’t change it now anyway and it wasn’t like it had any particularly negative effect on him, he decided to not mind it.

The second issue is that the produced light source can’t be moved.

Certainly, it can be said that if I designate this magic spell in space (T/N: by using spatial coordinates ... is what I’d use here), it will be impossible to move the light source away from that space.

As for this, after having the limit removed previously, trying to suddenly chant [Congregate, my power] will fail due to insufficient magic power for consumption, won’t it? The magic spell won’t be executed and my consciousness will become exhausted, something like going through the terrible experience of having a blackout, he realized the state of affairs.

So until then, he practiced one magic spell at a time and then took a rest until its effect stopped working. Though he wanted to do it again in the same manner, since after seeing through 10 repeats there didn’t appear any dizziness at this point. Thus he decided to increase the amount of magic power slightly. He tried to continue chanting two times, but after he felt a light dizziness again, he took a break. As he saw the two lights floating somewhere in the middle of his room, he realized that it was not possible to move them.

The fire itself emitted no heat either. Although it was merely shining palely, it seemed like once the position was designated after finishing the spell execution, it continued to exist in that place until its effect wore off.

Since that was the case, once he reached the point where he could release several of them, the interior of his room ended up being full of light sources. Even if there was no real harm, being the result of various trials and errors it somehow ended up bothering him. Did you really have to invoke all of them to appear in designated locations in the first place? Renya noticed that if you conjured an object with magic and moved this very object, it would shine while in movement.

After understanding that much, only practicing remained.

Apart from the occurring dizziness as an interfering factor, it was a completely mechanical action for Renya to use the magic spell.

He repeated this for a period of three hours. Even though he was able to increase the amount of simultaneous light sources to 8 without suffering dizziness, it could be called tedious work to repeat the same spell time and time again.

Isn't there some better method? Renya pondered. For some reason he hit upon a possible method and decided to try it as he had nothing to lose anyway.

"Using [Chantless], [Light] shall be implemented now. Activate 8 units at the same time by using [Activate Parallel Magic Formation]." (Renya)

Immediately after saying this, the character [Acknowledged] could be seen. Atop of Renya's head 8 light sources appeared in something like an interval.

I think half of my joy is due to it going well and the other half is due to realizing that I haven't even specified the position in space, Renya chuckled to himself.

With this I have verified that I can combine the skills I received in a similar fashion as assembling a macro.

However, if I assume that those have to be declared one by one too, it is quite a hassle no matter how you look at it. (T/N: He means that he has to declare each spell/skill chant sequentially in contrary to having one single chant/declaration for all of them)

After pondering about it for a little while, Renya revised the previous declaration

slightly.

“Using [Chantless], [Light] shall be implemented now. Activate 8 units at the same time by using [Activate Parallel Magic Formation]. Repeat the action until the remaining quantity of my magic power decreases to 50%. Re-execute after magic power has recovered completely. Repeat the cycle until interruption. Specify the position by my right hand’s palm.” (Renya)

In reality, although it may be possible to repeat the cycle until his magic power was completely exhausted, but since he wasn’t clear on what kind of change would happen to his body in case his magic power was emptied, he decided to include a safety margin of 50%.

If it was only to the degree of feeling faint, it would be fine to do this as he was in his own room. Even so he felt that it would be difficult on his body, if he became faint each and every time.

He lifted his palm indicating the position where the magic should be executed. Though he didn’t know how to extinguish the state of this magic spell, the executed light source vanished after roughly 10 minutes passed. By tightly grasping the shining object on top of his palm, he was able to conceal it for the time being.

The execution of this macro worked just as he had planned it. Thus Renya obtained a safe method of starting the laborious activity to earnestly continue using magic.

Renya misunderstood something here without particularly realizing it.

Normally, while in the state of dizziness caused by the decreased remaining magic power, even though this was assumed to occur at a remaining magic power quantity of 10% by magicians, the common sense dictated in such situation that it was necessary to rest up for almost a half day until the magic power was restored after having been exhausted this far.

However, Renya possessed the skill [Superb Recovery] (*T/N: The translator of chapter 3 called it “Regeneration” only but that’s either a wrong translation or a previous understatement by the author*), therefore right after a decrease, it would recover at an unconventional rate successively. It became an absurd state where he could repeat cycles, which would usually require half day intervals, at intervals of a dozen seconds.

Furthermore, the time for magic practice could be multiplied by 8. Thanks to the

activated parallel magic formation in addition to the high-speed replenishment, he had practically no cast time or cool down time and thus could execute the spells consecutively.

It was labeled as skill called [Breakthrough the Growth Limit].

At the time Renya received this, he was only growing by disciplining and training. In other words, although he understood that he received the beneficial skill of breaking through the growth limitation, Renya believe this had another ability which resulted in exceeding the usual growth speed limitation.*(ED: Renya thought it reduced downtime in training, he didn't know it'd eliminated it.)*

Basically, although Renya's unconventional amount of training, his unconventional training speed, and his unconventional growth speed indicated the ability to release his growth limit which developed him into having his current state, the person himself completely wasn't aware of this at all.

On the contrary, the hopeless verdict of Khalil in regards to his small amount of magic power spurred Renya on to intensify his training even more.

The inhabitants of this world undoubtedly have been in contact with magic since their childhood, there's no mistake that I should use it (T/N: magic) to increase my own level until I am able to reach their proficiency.

Therefore, I, who falls into the category of late-starters, have to thoroughly develop this ability, even if I won't be able to hold my own in comparison to the inhabitants of this world. Renya reflected.

Since he had no other choice but to use the magic spell [Light], every time he implemented the macro the length extended and the contents of Renya's macro changed.

Currently the used macro was as follows:

“Using [Chantless], [Light] shall be implemented now at maximum power. Activate 16 units at the same time by using [Activate Parallel Magic Formation]. Repeat the action until the remaining quantity of my magic power decreases to 20%. Re-execute after magic power has recovered completely. Repeat the cycle until interruption. Specify the position by my right hand's palm.” (Renya)

When this matter reached the ears of Khalil she opened her eyes wide, astonished after hearing the contents. But Renya himself thinking that it was still far too insufficient caused the surrounding people to be overcome by dreadful awe.

Thus, as there was no one to stop this situation, he started to raise his cheat ability by freely using his cheat skills.

CHAPTER 19

IT SEEMS TO BE A PEDDLER

At the northern gate Renya presented the guild card and answered to the guard, who asked him where he was headed, that he would train and at the same time travel a bit further away have a look around.

Renya waved his hands in return to the guard who asked him to be careful on the move and the guard waved back. Renya walked at a steady pace for a while until he was at a spot, which he believed to be far enough from the gate, and then he suddenly started to run.

Though he said he would go a bit further to take a look around, Renya surveyed the surroundings after departing from the northern gate. As Shion had said before, it was a scene where you could truly see nothing.

There should be some weak monsters around, even though he thought that, there was no sign of their presence in this place, either. Looking at the rough ground, only a few short weeds were sporadically growing.

As it might be the best place for people who only want to swing their weapon, Renya felt that it was in no way lacking if he wanted to test his stamina simultaneously as well. He thought of only traveling at a running pace while he explored.

Leaving further away from the city, there might be some easily handled monsters.

In the beginning his speed was to the degree of doing some light jogging, even though he got swept up after a while into a running pace that felt in a way like performing a marathon, he didn't show any sign of running out of breath.

While thinking that his body had become something surprisingly light, he now felt like trying to sprint for a short distance. Although his breathing rate increased somewhat as expected, there wasn't any sign that he had to stop running due to exhaustion.

As it was his own body, Renya ended up having a somewhat eerie feeling. *It isn't a bad thing, rather if I had to say it, then it is a conveniently nice thing*, because of that he stopped worrying about it.

While keeping a stable pace for approximately one hour, he continued to run. The plain ended quickly and he ended up arriving at the group of mountains exposing a rugged rock surface.

There was no presence of anything living. While admiring the stretched out rocky mountains, he tried to roughly calculate in his head.

Shion said that to reach these mountains going on foot it would take a few hours.

As there are individual differences, the walking speed would be roughly about 4 km/h.

Since the inhabitants of this world, rather than only the adventurers, train their bodies, I should assume a little higher speed like 5 km/h.

Because I think that a few hours could mean something around 5 to 6 hours and if I make a little estimation of 5 hours, I can calculate that the distance between the city and the rocky mountains is roughly 25 km.

Speaking of a speed of 25 km/h, you can calculate that running 100 m will take approximately around 14 seconds.

That doesn't mean that it is that fast, although Renya thought that, running a little less than 2 hours to travel 42 km is a marathon run. From the fact that he thought like that you could declare that those thoughts were very far off from the norm.

"Well, let's start then, huh?" (Renya)

From his [Inventory] he took out the long sword he had just recently purchased. Renya muttered those words while confirming his grip.

I am not an idiot who doesn't know the technical proficiency of brandishing edged tools, was what he thought, but speaking about how he judged his own ability, you could say that it was the same no matter which weapon he bought.

Nonetheless, it was unknown what Renya expected from this long sword either.

It was produced in large quantities, it was sold at the markets on every corner, and when talking about the quality of the blade, there was no edge put on it either. It was produced for the sake of using it to strike, suppress, and cut.

It couldn't be helped that Renya was extremely dissatisfied with it.

I was expecting the thing to have at some degree of sharpness, even if only a little, though he ended up thinking this, since this could be called a typical weapon in this world, he had no choice but to accept it.

After ascertaining his grip, he tried to lightly swing it.

Renya didn't have any suitable knowledge about swordsmanship in this world.

And since his memories had been removed, although he couldn't state it with certainty, he didn't expect that he learned handling weapons as a child when he went to school in his previous world.

For this reason, without having the knowledge about things like form, as he somehow finished taking a pose in order to wield the sword, since he had absolutely no knowledge about it, he started practice-swinging, combining slashes and thrusts using some logic. It gave off a reasonable appearance.

As far as Renya was concerned, as he was unusually unlucky, he only wanted to earnestly practice kendo. To a certain extent he was currently applying swordsmanship, it might be even possible to adequately use this style when going into battle.

However, he devoted most of his previous life to ingrain techniques into his body, techniques that used swordsmanship employing a katana.

Such, as a representative, the long sword Renya decided to hold, proved that his compatibility with the weapons of this world was the worst.

Unlike this world's weapons whose intended purpose was to strike, suppress, and cut, a katana was something that killed when you drew it and connected.

If you used it to strike similarly to this world's long sword, it wouldn't matter how excellent the katana was, it would end up breaking or warping.

Since it differed in the way it killed, the way to handle it was naturally totally different too.

As it was such a distinctive gap, Renya's body accumulated discomfort and no matter

which movement he started his body became unable to follow it.

When he fought against the goblins at the pioneer's village, he became excited by the battle itself. Even though he was still fine then to wield the weapons, if he analyzed it calmly and tried to fight as usual, this out of place feeling or rather this discomfort would have been quite large.

Renya repeated the practice swings for who-knows-how-long and then after he stored the long sword in its scabbard and tossed it into his [Inventory], he breathed a sigh.

"This is useless... it's not even worth complaining about." (Renya)

He moved fairly well.

But, the disposition of something like being reasonably satisfied didn't occur to Renya.

Deeply sighing, he shook his head while sitting on a convenient stone for some time.

"Is something troubling you?"

Suddenly a voice came flying at him from the back. Standing in a flash, Renya turned his head while putting himself on guard.

The slope of the mountains was in Renya's back and that mountain had an astonishingly high level of altitude. He looked up to see a single little girl there who was crouching down using her knees and elbows while wrapping her cheeks with both hands.

Her hair style consisted of long black hair with tied pigtails on the left and right. The half opened eyes with red pupils somehow gave off the feeling as if she was sleepy.

She wore a plain light brown shirt and trousers on top, which were covered with a dull grey mantle. On her right waist something with the shape of a slightly large pouch was hung. Going by her appearance he concluded that it was likely that she was in the middle of a journey.

"Who are you?" (Renya)

She wasn't someone he remembered having seen before.

Without giving an answer to Renya regarding her identity, she stood up from the place she had been crouching and jumped down from the slope just like that.

That agility caused Renya to heighten his caution.

The slope was at a height to the extent that Renya had to look up. When she jumped down from that place, which likely had a height of about 3 m, the girl practically didn't bend her knee and yet she didn't stagger from the landing impact. Still and silent, Renya watched the girl who descended in front of his eyes.

"If you ask someone for their name, it is common sense to give your own name right after asking, is what I would like to point out to you. But given that it was me, who called out to you, I shall give you my name!"

Unnaturally flipping up the mantle and arrogantly putting both hands on her hips, no matter how and where you looked, she was shady on top of being suspicious-looking.

While maintaining a distance that would allow him to escape at any time, Renya watched the little girl, who grandly introduced herself, intently.

"I am called the peddler Gi... Kirie (*T/N: >> Kirie <<*)" (Kirie)

"I don't believe it's something you should brag about?" (Renya)

Calmly, quickly cutting into Kirie's introduction, Renya inserted his tsukkomi causing the cocky Kirie to drop her shoulders with a feeling of despondence.

"Shouldn't you say something more appropriate by reading the mood there?" (Kirie)

"Though I don't know about that, what does this peddler-san want from me?" (Renya)



Since she approached specifically to greet him, Renya asked her while trying to guess her intentions.

Seeing that the expression of vigilance didn't vanish from his face, Kirie, who called herself a shoujo, smiled bitterly.

"Even if you don't stand on guard like this..." (Kirie)

"Just in case, I had checked that there was no one else close by. And yet you were there. That should be plenty of reason to remain on guard, don't you agree?" (Renya)

Renya didn't understand magic like the one Rona used.

Therefore, to make certain, even though he didn't mention it, he paid attention to his surroundings. He had confirmed that there wasn't anyone in the range of his attentive field of vision.

I think probably it would have become awkward, if anyone were to see my way of using the sword. Though he likely shouldn't give such a reason for that.

"I will be troubled if you look down on peddlers. After all I have to repel the attacks of bandits as well as monsters while continuously traveling from city to city in order to conduct my business. Something on the level of erasing my own presence is a trivial matter." (Kirie)

Once again doing a complete reverse, Kirie suddenly and forcefully puffed up her chest with pride.

Is that how it is? while pondering about it, Renya tried to throw out another question.

"Although you are calling yourself a merchant, you don't carry any merchandise, do you?" (Renya)

"I am a rare peddler. I possess [Inventory]. Amazing, don't you agree?" (Kirie)

Renya nodded for the time being as he understood the underlying logic.

"So, what are you selling?" (Renya)

"I am able to sell whatever you like. It must be something like fate to meet each other

in this place. Do you want me to show you some of my wares?" (Kirie)

Without even waiting for a reply, Kirie took out a voluminous carpet, which you wouldn't expect to possibly fit into such place, from the pouch hanging on her waist. She immediately spread it out on the ground.

Furthermore she took out various goods from the same pouch while lining them up on top of the carpet in a way so you could easily examine them. *Somehow I am certain I encountered this pocket she possesses in some anime*, Renya thought.

Small bottles like test tubes filled with multicolored liquids, ornaments made out of precious metals adorned with jewels, some materials like black leather, gloves with an appearance of exposing the fingers and several pairs of shoes.

As she lined up the things from within the pouch like that, Renya's eyes were glued to the last item Kirie took out.

"That is..." (Renya)

"Oya, you have a discerning eye to immediately spot this." (Kirie)

Kirie made sure to hold it reverently with both hands. She presented a single katana in front of Renya's eyes.

A matte black leather was wrapped around the estimated part of the hilt.

The guard on the sword was made out of plain black metal with the same lack of gloss.

Although he couldn't see whether the blade of the katana matched them as it was in its scabbard, the scabbard appeared to be made from metal as well, having a similar black color. Something like a silver arabesque pattern was applied as a design.

"Please, feel free to ascertain it for yourself by drawing it." (Kirie)

He grasped the scabbard of the katana he was handed with his left hand and drew it out of the opening of the sheath.

With a delightful feeling of **kun~tsu**, he could feel the blade sliding out of the scabbard. *(T/N: Kun refers to the drawing of the blade while sheathed and the tsu is the sound of it coming free completely.)*

Turning over the edge of the unsheathed katana's blade, he set it up at eye level while leaking a small sigh of admiration.

The texture of the surface had a skillfully fine small ferrite pieces matching the wave pattern along its length. The tempered pattern of the katana's blade had an inlet inserted having an rotund appearance of wind swaying clovers intermingling with each other.²

Measuring the katana's blade with his eyes, it had a length of approximately 2 shaku 4 sun. (T/N: shaku = 30,3 cm, sun = approx. 3 cm ... so approx. 72,6 cm)

Though he didn't understand the inscription on the exposed tang after examining it, *Given that the curving is shallow, I fear that it's likely this katana's designated classification would be uchigatana,*¹ he judged.

For a while Renya was staring at it intently checking the condition of the blade. Carefully returning the katana's blade into its scabbard, he handed the katana back to Kirie.

"It was a considerably sharp sword and a feast for the eyes." (Renya)

"Oya? You won't buy it?" (Kirie)

As Kirie said this unexpectedly, Renya naturally took something like a single breath.

"You have only this many goods. Probably it is beyond my grasp." (Renya)

"No~ I was told that this weapon was used by some Lost. But, well, for most of the people in this world it is a half-hearted weapon." (Kirie)

While grasping the received katana with her right hand, she began to scribble with a *kaki kaki* with the free left hand. Kirie displayed a troubled laugh.

"It is exceedingly beautiful. But it is emitting a feeling of being ~ a rare piece of art, or perhaps I should say there are no people who are able to accurately handle it as weapon. As there were many people broke off their interest in it due to its appearance, honestly speaking, I had no other choice but to hold onto it." (Kirie)

"What a waste." (Renya)

Renya thought so from the bottom of his heart.

Clinging to these words, no matter what Kirie's voice became stuffily zealous recommending her merchandise.

"I believe it is a great satisfaction for people who can handle a tool to receive it after all. Such being the case, if you can handle it accurately, I think I wouldn't mind selling it to you for a special price. For only an astonishingly low 20 gold coins!" (Kirie)

"I believe I can handle it perfectly. I just don't have such money on hand." (Renya)

Together with the share he held onto when he arrived in this world here, adding to that the sum he got for selling off the magic crystals and also the reward for the goblin subjugation, he didn't possess that kind of money. Renya easily gave up on the purchase.

I can't shake a sleeve I don't have and I think I don't want to go as far as lending money from somewhere just so that I can buy it.

In the case of an edged tool, I can use it, I believe. My handling of the longsword is embarrassing though.

I think you could say I am simply swinging an iron pole. Well, in it's own way it can be used in combat somehow.

Renya gave up after reaching such a conclusion. However, Kirie didn't want to lose this buyer here. Thus, she earnestly hung on tenaciously as she didn't know when the next buyer who knew about this object might appear.

"Well then, how about bartering for it? Since you came to this place to do weapon training, aren't you an adventurer-san? Don't you have some rare item you could exchange for the katana?" (Kirie)

"Sorry, but it hasn't been a long time yet since I came to this world here. Besides, it is unthinkable by all means that I possess such a rare item that could counterbalance it (T/N: the katana)." (Renya)

"Mu? This world here? Might you possibly be a Lost human?" (Kirie)

Blaming himself with the audible words "Damn!", there was no further need to conceal

it since he spilled the beans already. Given Kirie's astonishment alongside her inquiry, Renya nodded.

Seeing Renya nodding, Kirie's face in a flash sparkled with a joyful expression.

"If that's the case! Did you bring in anything from your world? Something that doesn't exist in this world would have plenty of value." (Kirie)

"Even if you said that..." (Renya)

Because it could be said that an ordinary Lost would come from their original world to this world by something like falling through a vortex, it wouldn't be strange for them to bring the items they held onto at the time they fell into this world either.

However, if Renya was to believe the words of that little girl, once the body completely passed away in the original world, it was consequently impossible to bring in anything from the original world.

Having unintentionally thought this far, Renya opened his [Inventory] to look into it.

There he found only one item stored away.

That was, although not an item brought in from his original world, something which historically originated from his former world.

Even though it was something that had a reasonable value by itself, as he also recognized it with spite, looking at it from the view of common people, that was... an object which inevitably couldn't be called anything more than a stick.

In spite of thinking like that, as he had no other options, Renya took it out from his [Inventory].

"That is?" (Kirie)

"It is called a shinai. In my world... maa, let's just say it is a weapon for the time being." (Renya)

"That is, maa... how to say it? ...Can I also borrow it for a little while?" (Kirie)

Renya passed over the shinai he took out on top of Kirie's extended left hand she held

out.

Although the thought of her possibly making off with the shinai crossed his mind for an instant, he judged it quite unlikely for her to escape from this place while leaving the still spread out merchandise at her own feet without a care.

Kirie held the katana in the right hand without change. In the left hand she grasped the hilt of the shinai and assessed it while lightly swinging it.

“This is also considerably light.” (Kirie)

“Well, in my world it is a weapon serving mainly for practice.” (Renya)

“Houhou... oya? Isn’t this a grade 10 item?” (Kirie)

As Kirie gazed at the shinai closely, she suddenly told him what she had noticed.

If I’m not mistaken, such an explanation was given at the time when I first saw it in the [Inventory], he remembered.

Since she is a merchant, I guess judging such things is one of her fortes.

Or I think she could also possess the skill of appraisal. While considering this, Renya nodded.

As he tried to ask about her expression, she nimbly arranged the shinai in her left hand and the katana in her right hand. Thinking about something, Kirie counted 10 times as she knocked them together each time. Abruptly she held out the katana in her right hand facing Renya.

“Oi?” (Renya)

“Let’s exchange. Although I don’t quite understand this item, since it certainly is a grade 10 item, this will sell for any price to dilettantes!” (Kirie)

“Though I also have a problem with the way you talk about something I took out, are you really fine with this?” (Renya)

“Yes, even if I held onto this katana here, I won’t be able to sell it successfully either. Since its rank is only grade 7, its value is considerably lower.” (Kirie)

“If you are willing to exchange it, it will be quite helpful to me, though...” (Renya)

Even though Renya had an expression of not being quite convinced, Kirie floated a smile with **niko niko** as it was actually nothing more than an absolutely beneficial shopping to her.

“As I can sweep out deadstock as well as obtain a novel commodity, it is a very good thing.” (Kirie)

“Is that so? If that’s really fine, please go ahead, but.” (Renya)

“Yes, maidoari~” (Kirie) *(T/N: Thanks for your purchase/for making business with you, for those who don’t know)*

Even though Renya somehow couldn’t help feeling that this ended up being an extremely unbalanced transaction, Kiried pushed the katana onto Renya and promptly stored away the shinai in the void storage going via the pouch in the end.

“You don’t have any other businesses of a lifetime besides this one, do you? If there isn’t, you don’t mind me storing my merchandise, do you?” (Kirie)

“Indeed, since I don’t have any money on hand to that extent.” (Renya)

While graping the obtained katana tightly, as Renya answered her, within his mind he wondered, *Now then, how am I supposed to equip this?*

Since it was an uchigatana, it would be the proper way to carry it on his waist. but there was no way that Renya had a place on his current clothes to wear this katana.

“Now that you mention it ...” (Kirie)

Being quite casual, Kirie said while storing back the spread out merchandise into her pouch.

“As it is a special occasion, would you let me see how to use that weapon perfectly?” (Kirie)

“Fumu?” (Renya)

“I will prepare the target.” (Kirie)

Having almost finished putting away the items, Kirie took out another object from within her pouch.

That object resembled something that could be seen on paddy fields and their likes in Renya's former world.

It was a scarecrow made out of straw and a stick.

In order for the scarecrow to have the shape of a human-like body, it wore a leather armor. As such, it appeared to have something like intensity in its own way.

Kirie stabbed it into the ground like a stake so that its feet section was affixed in the ground. By sending Renya a signal as if she said "There you go", she took a little distance.

Albeit wondering what he should do, Renya felt in some respects something like obligation due to the business deal not long ago. He judged that he could listen to a request of such level.

Furthermore, Kirie had said 「a person handling it accurately」. Thus it could also be said that it was necessary to establish proper proof.

When he saw that Kirie had sufficiently distanced herself from the scarecrow, Renya lightly lowered his hips, held the katana with his left hand close to his waist and drew his right hand gently near to its hilt.

Currently, although he would use it for the first time, he had something like a hallucination remembering a time where he carried a katana in his hands in the far gone olden days.

Renya's eyes fixedly stared at the scarecrow.

The distance from Renya to the scarecrow was roughly about 2 meters.

Remembering the feeling of oppression similar to being choked by merely watching, Kirie gulped down her saliva involuntarily in the instant Renya moved his right hand.

Drawing it out, at the time she thought that, Renya's body had already returned to its former position. In the same way as if being immersed in a slow lingering memory, the katana's blade was returned into its scabbard.

Kirie was dumbfounded.

She didn't remember taking her eyes off him.

Even though she didn't, within Kirie's field of vision, the part of the scarecrow, which Renya had cut by stepping in with a single step, ended up in a spectacle of cleanly falling off.

Somehow, watching in front, Kirie ended up feeling as if she was the one having been cut. At the same time Renya completely stored back the katana's blade, the plain scarecrow arbitrarily fell apart.

Thus, the scarecrow, which had been cut from the left side up to the right shoulder, dropped onto the ground being separated into four parts.

"As it happened due to drawing the katana from the initial position, this probably should be correctly named as battoujutsu." (Renya) *(T/N: Art of sword drawing ... see Rurounin no Kenshin for further references)*

Breathing out without a warning, Kirie remained stiff as she turned towards Renya's direction while he explained.

"Although kenjutsu is yet another different art... Are you satisfied with this?" (Renya)

nikori Renya displayed a smiling face. Although it was likely that Renya wasn't aware of anything, Kirie's muscles along the spine were frozen stiff in reminiscence of the spectacle before and except nodding her head with a *koku koku* she wasn't able to move at all.

CHAPTER 20

IT SEEMS TO BE THE ACCEPTANCE OF A REQUEST

“We have accepted a request!” (Shion)

As Shion was somehow strangely delighted, the first thing she said after opening her mouth was this line. Seeing Renya return to the city after two straight days of committing himself to expert training in the mountain range without saying anything beforehand, he received a severe scolding from Shion and Rona the next day in early afternoon.

Apparently when he left taking only one bentou (boxed-lunch) along, they started to worry whether something had happened to Renya’s body as there wasn’t any sign of him returning when evening came.

While consuming the food he took along little by little and inserting naps inbetween, it was a trifling task for Renya to continuously train his body outside for a period of 2 days. Talking about it now, certainly, only having enough food for just one meal, he also considered within his mind to return once but immediately rejected it as being annoying.

But as he said that he intended to take around two days from the beginning, he didn’t think there was any reason to swarm him with criticism. As Shion fervently explained how concerned they were about Renya, he decided to devote himself to earnestly apologizing as he was unable to do anything else due to not wanting to particularly make things worse by replying with an imprudent rebuttal.

It was a fact that he caused them to worry, and as he considered the situation of being in the same position of being concerned about someone, it was a somewhat fresh feeling and he continued to apologize without being bothered by doing so.

Apart from that.

Just as Renya finished eating the expectedly disgusting lunch, he received boiling hot water from the inn’s employee in order to somehow improve the circumstances in his surroundings step by step. The mouth of the bottle was wide. Taking off its lid, he poured the water into an earthenware jar. While waiting for it to fully cooldown, he

started to cut down the fruits resembling apples, which he came across and bought at a nearby street stall, in properly sized pieces.

Without removing the skin, he threw bite sized pieces of them into the water that had finished cooling down completely due to the heat dissipating and shut the lid again.

He only remembered the information how to produce it. Although Renya pondered whether it was fine to leave it as it is for a few days, he knew no more than that it was necessary to do so in order to finish the base.

Even though Rona was watching with great interest as to what Renya was doing from the sidelines, he didn't explain to her what he was up to.

He considered it to be difficult for her to comprehend even if he were to explain it.

"Eto, Renya?" (Shion)

He had asked the inn's employee in advance to be allowed to place the jar in the inn's kitchen at a place where it wouldn't hinder anyone.

Renya conveyed to them that he wanted to leave it there for a few days as it is. As the inn's employee said that it would only rot, Renya had no other choice but to ambiguously laugh.

It would be undoubtedly complicated to explain the difference between rotting and fermentation to the inhabitants of this world. It was true that rotting and fermentation could be indicated as identical phenomenon, but fermentation was something beneficial to people. Given that only rotting wasn't something to be called beneficial, Renya personally would end up being embarrassed if there was no difference.

"Oi, Renya..." (Shion)

"I heard you. I think you said that you accepted a request?" (Renya)

As she would take offense if Renya continued to ignore her indefinitely, Renya finally returned some words to Shion as anger colored her tone.

While it may be true that there is no particular reason to reply to her since it doesn't imply that I am not listening, I guess it will be fine to continue talking as it is information that needs to be conveyed, he ended up thinking.

“What kind of request did you accept?” (Renya)

“Leaving the southern gate, at a place around one day by carriage a new dungeon has been discovered.” (Shion)

In regards to the distance, it was a place approximately around 80 km away.

As Renya wasn't really able to judge whether it was close by or far away, he asked himself *Why did this site turn into a dungeon? And why wasn't it discovered until just now?*

He tried to confront Shion with these questions.

There were two types of the things called dungeons. First off there are remains of abandoned mines and buildings that had been constructed by humans. After abandoning them without doing something like tearing them down, for some reason monsters would settle in there.

The other type was called something like living type dungeon. At some place a dungeon core would spring forth and summon objects in its surroundings making drastic changes to the environment, producing monsters and stockpiling treasures. The purpose of these actions was to absorb the mana of the defeated adventurers who came to the dungeon. Furthermore it was something that was able to mature.

No sooner than after the creation of the dungeon core, it will start to produce monsters by whatever method, huh? This being the point, there were many mysterious parts about this and it seemed that the research in this direction hadn't really progressed much, either.

“So this time the discovered dungeon is of the living type category. It is a subjugation request.” (Shion)

“Although it is still new, do you want to conquer the dungeon with a single party?” (Renya)

“No, several parties will link up to form a raid.” (Shion)

Raid meant that it was a group made up of several parties.

Shion explained that since it wouldn't be an achievement of a single party, the guild

request was about how well you would be able to work together in the raid.

Although Renya thought that it was almost like a game, it obviously wasn't actually such an optimistic situation.

If the living type dungeon was left alone, it would start to absorb the mana from its surroundings as well. So if they let it mature arbitrarily, it would reach the point of it producing great numbers of powerful monsters which would greatly increase the scale of the dungeon.

And then, eventually, the overflowing amount of created monsters would break out and cause serious damage to the surrounding areas. Thus, in case a new living type dungeon was discovered, it was prudent to gather the necessary amount of people promptly and go capture the dungeon in order to destroy its core.

"What's the number of participating parties?" (Renya)

"With us it is 4. The total amount of participants is 19 people." (Shion)

Since Renya's group's party had 3 people, there were 16 people left.

Although you could say it would be parties having 5 people each by calculation, since parties usually had 4 to 6 members working together, you could call this an average number of participants.

But, what about their combat ability? Since he hadn't an example he could judge by, he was pondering about this. Although Renya looked at Rona seeking for something like an opinion, Rona just swung here head left and right.

"Given that there is only scarce information about a new dungeon, it is usually often unknown whether the number of people to conquer it is appropriate." (Rona)

"After listening to the end, I don't think it is a very appealing job, don't you think?" (Renya)

"In case it hasn't been long since the generation of the core, it won't be able to release monsters on an extensive scale. As for the degree of difficulty, it is normally low. Also as you can expect things like intact raw materials, and treasures to a certain degree, it is a good job to earn income, you know." (Rona)

“Renya, why did you ask Rona’s opinion and not mine...?” (Shion)

Facing the extreme complaining of Shion, by no means can I go ahead and foolishly give her the honest reason of me having the impression that Rona clearly has far more information and experience than her, Renya assessed.

Although I don’t really understand how it ended up that I joined their party, I know that at least Rona wouldn’t destroy her stance of being a priest’s apprentice as long as she was in front of Shion.

Even though I don’t understand the reason for that, Rona tries to maintain this stance to the bitter end. As it was something which Renya was unskilled in, it was impossible for him to completely expose Rona.

While groaning with a low “U~ tsu”, Shion directed a straight glare at him. Renya somehow or other made up a reason and told her.

“Aren’t Rona and Shion equal in regards to knowledge and experience? In that case, in this situation following the opinion of Rona, who serves God, might possibly grant us a blessing, don’t you think?” (Renya)

If I think about requesting this from the little girl working as supervisor, I guess I can’t imagine her working diligently to the degree of blessing each and every single one of the priests who call themselves her servants either way, Renya was thinking since he had only a faint belief in her. As for forcefully making up a reason, Renya praised himself for it only being slightly invalid.¹

“Mu ... For some reason, now that you said that, I have such feelings too.” (Shion)

“I guess the leader is Shion? I will leave the final decision to you. Besides, you don’t have to worry since I will abide by your decision for sure.” (Renya)

“”Eh?”” (Rona & Shion)

After Renya finished saying it clearly, they returned a somehow questioning voice in harmony.

Did I say something so unexpected, Renya wondered as he looked at the two of them. Their facial expressions almost looked to him as if there was something like a question mark floating above their heads.

“I wonder, did I say something strange?” (Renya)

“I just thought that Renya would act as the leader...” (Shion)

“Eetto, I thought the same as well.” (Rona)

“Why would you think that?” (Renya)

Renya exhaled while showing a very reluctant expression.

Although it was only vaguely, he had a hunch that they would say something like that. Thus he was able to prepare his reply beforehand.

The people called leaders were people who grew into the duty of bearing responsibility for others apart from themselves. Renya didn't have a hobby of delightfully being responsible for others.

“At least you should understand that it is a pointless decision to make a Lost, who has little to no information about this world, your leader, no?” (Renya)

Though Renya believed that he told them something obvious, somehow both of them didn't seem to comprehend the reasoning.

“As the man is usually called the leader after all, I believe it will cause less problems with others, you know.” (Rona)

“I agree. Moreover I think that Renya will be able to make more accurate decisions than me.” (Shion)

“Where do you get this confidence from? And also, why did you accept the request then?” Although that was what he wanted to retort with, before their gazes keenly hinting at and conveying “We have already accepted it, no?” and “We can't refuse anymore, isn't that right?” his questions ended up disappearing too.

Dropping his shoulders while exhaling, Renya agreed, albeit feeling unwillingly.

“I understand... Shion, please consult with me briefly before you accept a request. Especially since I will be the leader.” (Renya)

“Mu, that's also true. I am sorry for being rash.” (Shion)

As Shion meekly apologized, Renya raised his hand in order to make them listen.

“And, what’s the reward and time limit?” (Renya)

“Including the necessary expenses, it is 6 gold coins for each party. The time limit is: 2 days for traveling and 2 days for the dungeon exploration, in total 4 days. Since it is a subjugation request, we are supposed to subjugate as many monsters as possible inside. There is an additional reward of 10 gold coins for destroying the dungeon core.” (Shion)

“We travel by carriage? Or by foot?” (Renya)

“We will travel there by carriage. The guild will arrange for it. Although the departure is tomorrow morning, we should check the faces of the fellow participating parties once before that. This evening we will meet up at a bar called 「Silver Cup」 close to the guild.” (Shion)

Although Shion was looking as if she wanted to say “How was that!”, Renya was troubled within his mind.

There isn’t much time left until we have to meet up with the other parties. The time until departure is extremely lacking as well.

Considering the time the meet up will take, the time remaining to devote for preparation is little to nothing.

I guess the request itself was posted only a short while before.

Discovering it just barely within the deadline, it seems that Shion ended up rushing to accept the request last-minute. That thinking was too naive.

Looking to his side, he saw that Rona looked sullen sharing the same opinion as him.

“Shion... don’t you think about the required follow up before you decide to accept a request?” (Renya)

“Eh? Eh?” (Shion)

Apparently Shion didn’t understand why Renya and Rona were looking sullen.

Nonetheless, she still seemed to understand that she had done something completely unwise. While alternating between viewing at both of their faces, her facial expression became very flustered.

Should I use this occasion to firmly scold her? Although he considered that too, after seeing Shion's expression he gave up on it.

Even though Renya didn't know how it was for the people of this world here, choosing to scold rather than praise a method for the most times caused various strains as well.

If they realized their mistake, it would work better to follow up rather than blaming them.

By no means did I end up being dumbfounded by the nature of the flustered Shion! Despite him persuading himself, when he was seen by Rona, she clapped on his shoulders with a *pon pon* showing nothing but her understanding.

"Although it can't be helped now that we ended up accepting it... Rona, can you go ahead and purchase the necessary goods quickly?" (Renya)

"Yes, I guess it can't be helped. Food and water for 4 days, rope, torchlights, potions and bandages. That should be it, I think?" (Rona)

"What about bedding? Although you guys got your own already, I don't possess any..." (Renya)

"I will buy it. I will buy anything else I become aware of while I'm at it." (Rona)

"I leave it to you. The expenses will be split between us later on. Can you pay for us in advance?" (Renya)

Bowing to Renya, Rona left the inn at a quick pace.

After seeing her off, looking at Shion's state, it seems she has at last started to gradually realize the troubles she'd caused. It didn't seem unlikely that she would present the armor she was wearing on herself as an apology.

"Preparations... can't move without them..." (Shion)

"It's fine to be careful next time. All things considered, this wasn't the first time you

accepted a request, didn't you ever notice this aspect?" (Renya)

Without using something like an accusing voice, Renya cautiously asked her. Shion answered while her face became red due to shame.

"Because Rona was always acting before I knew it..." (Shion)

At the time when there were only the two of them in the beginning, wasn't Rona acting like a parent in regards to Shion's situation? Renya wondered with a deep sigh, while his eyes looked something like those of a dead fish.²

"Is that so? ...Thanks for clearing this up for me. As it is like that, we will participate in that meeting together. I guess it is also fine if there aren't all of our members present, right?" (Renya)

"Probably..." (Shion)

Shion replied without confidence.

There is already no other way but to apologize myself if something happens, Renya mentally prepared.

"For starters, let's go to that Silver Cup. I guess I will also be able to explain if they ask anything." (Renya)

Although it will be great if it ends with only a meeting without any trouble, as Renya thought so within his mind, for some reason he doubted it. He didn't feel like finishing his thoughts which could be called a hunch.

And then, because of that bad kind of premonition, Renya also knew from the manifold experiences that he could say something cliché, like it never happened that he was wrong about his premonitions.

CHAPTER 21

IT SEEMS TO BE A MEET UP

At the bar called 'Silver Cup'

As it was in close proximity to the adventurer's guild building, it was open both day and night. If you looked at it, you wouldn't get the feeling that it was flourishing though.

There was a reason for that.

There wasn't anything like a cute waitress. Although it wasn't clear by what proportion the poor courtesy of the master was made up with his reticence, the main reason, apart from that, was due to the bar being affiliated with the adventurer's guild.

Accordingly to its affiliation with the adventurer's guild it was used by the guild's members.

Speaking of adventurers, even though there were all sorts of them, from the best to the worst, generally they were not a very well-mannered bunch.

Since such poor-mannered guests gathered in there, normal guests didn't approach the bar.

Even if they were members of the guild and there were likewise other establishments, given that there were many young men amongst them, they often went to establishments where there were many cute employees or beautiful onee-san's.

Therefore, though this bar didn't prosper, the adventurers gathered here if they had something to discuss or in case they had to decide upon something. This establishment was mostly used for those occasions.

Since there weren't many guests, it was easy to talk about matters that weren't supposed to be heard by other people. Understanding its nature, the guild likewise didn't part with this bar, which wasn't profitable, as it was helpful to the needs of adventurers.

Nevertheless, the costs for the bar were quite considerable, the guild itself employed a lovely waitress and a fairly skilled chef. Even though the guild attempted to improve the situation, since it was apparently a fatal fact that adventurers gathered there, the number of guests visiting there didn't increase. The hired waitress likewise ended up quitting the job before long.

The above mentioned information was something Renya had heard from Rona.

Renya admired her quite profound investigation.

Pushing open the double door, they entered the dim bar interior. On the other side of the counter there was indeed a taciturn, unsociable middle-aged man with little thin hair on his head. As he turned his gaze towards them, it was as if he was asking "What do you want here?"

I guess you shouldn't look at guests like that, although Renya thought that. But assuming he pointed it out to him, he wouldn't reconsider to improve his attitude anyway. Renya also began to ask himself if the man had no courtesy at all.

"We came for the guild's request. To meet up with those capturing the dungeon in the south. Are they here?" (Renya)

Apparently accepting the story, the middle-aged man, the master of the bar, pointed his chin to a corner.

Several tables could be seen to be occupied there. Although he could see a group freely chattering there as soon as he looked that way, Shion wasn't able to.

The master displaying such behaviour by jerking his chin, Shion noticed the blue veins popping up on Renya's forehead even though they were small.

"Re-Renya. Causing a commotion here..." (Shion)

"I know. Even though I understand it, this is a different story." (Renya)

Due to Shion's intervention, as Renya decided to head towards the indicated corner of the bar, he was detained by the voice of the bar's master.

"Wait, whatever-you-are-called-chan" (Master)

“...What?” (Renya)

“It is a rule here to order a drink as venue fee.” (Master)

“Water” (Renya)

“Are you kidding me? As this is a bar, you should order alcohol, don’t you think so? Or are you some brat that can’t drink alcohol putting on airs being an adventurer?” (Master)

Towards the immediate reply, there were blue veins popping up on the forehead of the bar’s master now.

Seeing Renya entering the bar accompanied by a woman and assuming Renya to be a brat not having lived for many years, not only did he glare in their direction with some displeasure, he also reprimanded Renya for ordering water at a bar.

Are you jesting or are you making fun of me? Either way, there is only a single way of educating him here, huh? Renya just judged.

The master of bar had to learn by heart the chill similar to to having ice stuffed into his spine and guts with all one’s might to shut him up in the end.

The man in front of him just looked in his direction.

Although this wasn’t anything different from just now, the quality of his gaze was different.

At first it was a look that judged a person’s character.

After opening his mouth, the bar master’s eyes looked like they were looking at a person he hated.

But soon after.

There wasn’t a trace of a judgmental person’s character anymore.

“A-Ah... Water is fine...?” (Master)

“Yes. Water is fine. Will you give us water?” (Renya)

Even though his voice was quiet, there was no feeling in it at all.

While suffering from the feeling of talking with someone as cold as ice, the master poured water into a glass, which was used to dilute alcohol usually, and rushed to place two of them on top of the counter.

“Water is fine with you, Shion?” (Renya)

“Eh? Ah, that’s right. This place doesn’t have the atmosphere to drink alcohol nor is it the time for that.” (Shion)

“I see. How much is it?” (Renya)

“He?” (Master) (*T/N: it’s a sound not the English “he”*)

The master of the bar who didn’t seem to comprehend what the question meant was asked by Renya indifferently.

“The price for water. It isn’t free of charge, now is it?” (Renya)

“A-Ah. It is 1 copper coin each.” (Master)

Leaving the mentioned amount of money on top of the counter, Renya turned his back on the master of the bar and handed one of the two glasses he was holding to Shion.

Although he did no more than that, this caused something like a sense of security as if the bar’s master was returning from the demonic boundary¹ to return to the world of humans, making him take a deep breath without realizing it himself.

While looking at the two walking to the spot where the group he himself had indicated were, the master etched Renya’s face firmly into his memory.

This fellow is definitely dangerous.

Guessing that something like that was going on within the mind of the master, without saying anything about this matter, Renya easily forgot about the existence of the master himself. Yet his facial expression didn’t clear up.

Even though there were many participants in the group they were heading towards, they were looking at them approaching while broadly grinning and laughing.

Without having any method of evaluating them, is it due to me not being able to calm down? Or because I feel some kind of discomfort? Though Renya clearly felt that he wanted to go home already, since turning back here could potentially mean them failing the request without actually being able to attempt to accomplish it in the end, he just endured it and sat down at the table.

As it seemed that it was arranged a single party per table, Shion immediately sat down on the seat next to Renya.

“It appears that somehow all members have assembled.” (Man)

A man giving off the feeling of being halfway through his thirties by looking at him, opened his mouth.

Sneaking a look on his body through the gaps in his armor reinforced with leather and metal plates, it was considerably tightened. He had short cut blonde hair and was surveying his surroundings vigilantly with his sharp blue eyes.

Two well-made long swords were hanging on his waist.

You could perceive by their appearance that both of them were used for quite a long time.

“He is the leader of the Party < Bearers of the Flaming Red >, called Hartz = Raisen (T/N: >> *harutsu* = *raisen* <<). He is a B-ranked adventurer skilled at using dual-wielding (T/N: *Nitouryuu*).” (Shion)

Renya was taught by Shion secretly as she whispered into his ear.

It looked like she expressly sat next to Renya for that reason.

For some reason Shion’s knowledge about adventurers was quite detailed.

Inquiring the reason from Shion, Renya received the answer that they had done various detailed investigations like a schema as powerful adventurers = existences to yearn for, not so much for it being necessary to approach them.

I guess it is something like chasing after an idol, Renya considered.

At the table where Hartz was sitting there were furthermore 5 men and 2 women.

Shion murmured in a whisper that all of the men were warriors whereas the women were a magician and a thief.

Except for Hartz, everyone's rank was C.

"Are those all of the members?" (Another man)

Stretching out both feet on top of the table slovenly and reclining on the back of his chair, a brown-haired young man raised his voice.

"He is the leader of the party called < Sharp Fang >, Zest = Fatality (*T/N: Lol no, I am not kidding you, >> zesuto = fatariti <<*). He uses a rapier. Although his adventurer rank is C... and his behavior is ill-natured, his ability is apparently B-ranked." (Shion)

Except for Zest, all 5 members of that party were women.

Zest was a warrior, the remaining were 2 thieves, 2 priestesses and 1 magician.

The magician was rank B whereas the thieves and priestesses were rank D.

Asking why the magician wasn't acting as leader, the reply returned stated that she was an absent-minded woman.

For the sake of talking in a small voice, Shion brought her body quite close while Renya listened to her explanations. He admired and was likewise astonished by the skillful investigations having gone to such an extent.

"That, to whom are you pointing that out?"

Using a subdued voice, it was a man with ruffled up red hair holding a twisted cane and wearing an ashen robe.

"That is... the leader of < Pursuers >, Az = Hound (*T/N: >> Azu = Haundo <<*). He is famous since it is unusual for a magician to be the party leader. His rank is D." (Shion)

The party was composed of 4 men in solid plate armor.

Az being the magician, the 4 men labored during the time he exercised his magic. Shion said that Az prided himself in a strategy of brute force with the firepower of a magician.

The group of men's role was that of a shield. Given that they really gave their undivided attention to shielding, Their rank wasn't high as it was F.

Although Shion was great to have investigated this far, Renya began to get worried whether it was alright for the adventurers to leak this much information about themselves. An angry voice was raised.

"Oi, you chatting bastards." (Zest)

"...?" (Renya)

No matter how hard he tried, the previous words seemed to be addressed towards them, perceiving this, Renya tilted his head in puzzlement looking at the owner of the voice.

The owner of the voice was Zest.

Without changing the same posture of lying on his back with his legs outstretched in a state similar to being served by his female party members on both sides, he turned a stern gaze towards Renya.

"Is it fine for there to be only the two of you~ ? How do you plan to survive?" (Zest)

"No there is a priestess. She is absent as she has to take care of the preparations. I am sorry if you feel offended by that." (Renya)

They will find fault with it after all, huh? Renya had such thoughts.

Although it was within his expectations, as he strongly thought it would involve troubles, he ended up showing this on his facial expression, causing the other party to get even more aggressive.

Since it was a fact that their numbers were really too few, he had anticipated to apologize here. Renya stood up from his chair and bowed in apology towards Zest.

"Keh. This isn't a game. Well, even if you guys die, the reward will only be equally split between those of us surviving, therefore I am fine with it." (Zest)

"Stop it, Zest. As they are companions who accepted the same request, there is no gain in arguing before doing the job." (Hartz)

As Hartz reined in Zest by rebuking him, Zest turned his line of sight from Renya to glare even more atrociously at Hartz.

“Do you have any problem with how I handle things?” (Zest)

“That’s not what I said. But, I don’t think there is any meaning in disputing either, is there?” (Hartz)

“I am sorry for causing a troublesome situation like this. However, we will properly do our job. It would be fine if you could just believe me on this.” (Renya)

“Though it is splendid for you to say such a thing, I don’t believe you bastard one bit. Who are you assholes anyway?” (Zest)

As he was about to give their name, he noticed that they hadn’t decided on a party name as of yet.

“The party name hasn’t been set yet. I am called Renya = Kurugi, someone who just became an adventurer not long ago.” (Renya)

“Haa ?!” (Zest)

Zest raised his voice loudly.

The voice was as if blatantly making fun of them. *Did I say anything strange?* Renya considered, but he couldn’t come up with anything being weird there.

“Is anything wrong?” (Renya)

“Nameless, just having become an adventurer recently?! I suppose that means that you bastards rank is F ?!” (Zest)

“Exactly, but what about it?” (Renya)

“Are you fooling me? Or are you trying to leech off us? Rank F party? And furthermore also only 3 people? Tell me, what will you bastards be able to do there?!” (Zest)

Your haughty opinion is reasonable, Renya could just think as he smiled wryly.

This had rubbed Zest the wrong way. His gaze was almost filled with a thirst for blood

that was close to being drowned in wrath.

“T-The request i-is supposed to have no rank r-restriction. As there isn’t a restriction set on the number of people either, there is no particular problem with taking up the request...” (Shion)

“Shut up and get back!” (Zest)

As expected, Shion wasn’t able to endure it any longer and raised her voice.

Zest drowned that Shion with harsh words and threw his glass filled with alcohol, which he was holding in his hand, at Shion.

The glass came flying with a force where it was impossible to not get injured if you were hit by it. Although Shion put herself on guard reflexively, Renya caught the the flying glass in mid-air and softly put it on top of the table.

Not having hesitated in his movements, although about half of the contents ended up being spilled during the glass flew through the air, Renya placed the glass on top of the table without making any noise at that time and without the remaining half of the contents spilling over either it remained within the glass.

“Son of a bitch...!” (Zest)

This had increased Zest’s irritation even more.

As he signaled the Thief girl with his eyes, she threw knives aiming at Renya without any warning.

The number of them were four.

I guess I have to give them a slight lesson while not overdoing it, huh? Renya assessed. *Since we are the cause of the disturbance it can’t be helped to a certain degree.*

While quietly breathing a sigh, he caught the flying knives with both hands, holding two on each hand.

Making sure he stopped them, he held the cutting edge besides himself and thrust the four knives on top of the table surrounding the glass he had placed there before.

He wasn't quite confident whether he would be able to throw the knives. While the knife-throwing girl's eyes were colored in surprise looking at the situation wearing a facial expression of disbelief, Renya didn't say anything at all.

"Though I heard that this would only be a meet up, I certainly can't believe this to be true in such an atmosphere at all." (Renya)

"Who do you think is the cause of that?" (Zest)

Due to the spectacle shown in front of their eyes, anyone could tell the high level of Renya's skill.

Nevertheless, Zest's voice was filled with disagreement. Renya nodded in agreement.

"It is our fault. Therefore we will take our leave. Although we will do our job... there is no need for cooperation." (Renya)

"Renya-san?!" (Shion)

Shion held back her will to try protesting towards Renya's words.

"We will move our way. You will move your way. This will be for the best, don't you agree?" (Renya)

"Probably" (Hartz)

Hartz approved of Renya's words.

"We also have decided to act independently. We won't be able to devote ourselves to the job with such noisy clattering either." (Hartz)

"If that's the case, isn't it fine to end the meeting with this?" (Renya)

"Ah, the course of events is something we will decide on-site." (Hartz)

Towards Renya's question of confirmation, Hartz nodded while grinning broadly and laughing.

"We likewise don't need any cooperation... rather it will be a nuisance." (Az)

Az said in a whisper. Hartz clapped his hands together with a *pon*.

“This is the opinion of 3 of the 4 parties. Thus it’s settled.” (Hartz)

“Don’t decide all by yourselves. After all, after looking at you bastards, you will essentially become a burden.” (Zest)

“In this case, we are done.” (Renya)

As he gave her a little nod, Shion’s back tensed as she seemed to want to say something. Renya decided to leave the place.

From the place in his rear Zest called out to him quite hatefully.

“Oi, rookie. Do your best to watch your back!” (Zest)

“Same to you.” (Renya)

Without turning around either, Renya replied. The feeling of anger in his back further increased in intensity.

After that, even though there were noises of things falling and crashing on the ground, Renya didn’t concern himself with it and left the bar without delay.

At any rate, they have prevented Zest from affecting the surroundings by losing his temper, huh? I guess it is a situation of him dropping and breaking things to vent his anger. I can somehow understand the situation without even looking.

“Renya... I am...” (Shion)

“Okay, stop there. The breakdown of the meet up was mainly my fault.” (Renya)

As he was about to return to the inn, at Renya’s back Shion started to speak about something in a murmur. Hearing that, Renya stopped Shion from continuing her words.

Even though her facial expression became surprised, given that she nevertheless tried to resume his words, Renya turned in the direction of Shion and grabbed hold of her forehead using a light iron claw on her.

“Ah, ouch... ouuuuucchhh... Renya !? It’s creaking ! My skull is being pressed in!?” (Shion)

“If I tell you to not mind it, then don’t worry about it. If Rona says anything, it is fine to tell her that I started to flip out again. Do you understand? If you understand, then answer me. In case you don’t give me an answer, I will assume you didn’t understand and will continue.” (Renya)

“Continue!? B-but. They made fun of us. In the first place I was... wa wa wa wa wa wa was!?” (Shion)

“There is no answer~ ...I shall continue. By the way, Shion will you believe me that I crushed the head of a goblin with one hand?” (Renya)

“There is no way to be able to do such stupid thing... or is it possible?” (Shion)

“I tested it out while disposing the corpses at that pioneer’s village. To my surprise, I managed to do so.” (Renya)

“I-I have understood! Since I understand, release me~ !?” (Shion)

Releasing his hand, Shion grabbed her head with both hands while becoming teary-eyed looking at Renya.

It was still visible within her eyes that she wanted to add something. Renya only raised his mouth’s edges floating a smile while his fingers made wriggling movements. Giving this kind of display sealed off any further objections from Shion.

“Maa, I thought that it would result in troubles from the very beginning.” (Renya)

My premonition wasn’t off after all, huh? Once again I couldn’t help to be caught by it. Renya complained while just watching the back of the escaping Shion.

CHAPTER 22

IT SEEMS TO BE TRAVELLING BY CARRIAGE

“You did it on purpose.” (Rona)

On the rattling and shaking carriage Rona looked at Renya with scornful eyes while reaching that conclusion.

Renya stared back at Rona with a look of “What do you mean?”

Rona intently stared into his direction as she crossed her arms and legs. Not donning her usual *pattsun pattsun* priestess’ garb, she wore a priestess’s garb accurately sized in regards to her body line with having attached a chest protector and coverings for the back of the hands and wrists.

A one-handed mace was hanging at her hips.

Her fluffy hair gave off a feeling of being tightly bundled together. Although her large eyes were without any change, for some reason the helpless feeling within them had faded since the time they met. She appeared to be clad in something like fighting spirit.

“You disguised yourself...” (Renya)

As Renya said so calmly, Rona didn’t comprehend what he was talking about.

“Well it’s fine, however, what was on purpose?” (Renya)

After leaving the city, they had been jolted around on the rattling carriage for quite some time.

Even if you could describe it as a carriage in a single word, it wasn’t the typical type used by ordinary passengers to be boarded for traveling. Only a single horse was tied to the wagon which actually made it quite frugal.

All that it had was a bench installed on the load carrying tray other than the coachman’s seat. Naturally there was no roof either.

Given that there wasn't anything like cushions spread out on the seats for comfort, it turned into the situation of sitting on a wooden plank. This resulted in an extreme burden on the buttock and hips.

Did the adventurer's guild hear about the story at the time of the meet up from some of the participating parties? As consequence of preparing 4 carriages for the participating parties, they could feel at ease for not having to be in an awkward situation by being together with another party.

However, since the a coachman hadn't been provided, certainly each party had to choose a coachman from within their ranks to drive the carriage.

In Renya's party only Shion was capable of riding a horse.

Renya hadn't any experience in riding a horse whereas Rona, who apparently had never handled a horse by herself, always rode behind Shion on Shion's horse.

Naturally, Shion was seated in the coachman seat and Renya and Rona were seated in the form of facing each other on top of the carriage load tray.

"Your aggravating the meet up, that is." (Rona)

Since Rona didn't participate in the meet up herself, she didn't know what happened although the result was that they would participate in the current request. From the looks directed at them by the other parties at the meeting place (*T/N: for the carriages*), she mostly understood what happened in general.

Even though she thought at first that Shion had provoked the other party by getting carried away with her questioning, Renya immediately denied this. As a result of him claiming to have done it himself, Rona started to give him a speech about said matter.

"I didn't particularly did it on purpose..." (Renya)

"...When you thought of getting it over with without a fuss, you weren't able to do so, isn't that right...?" (Rona)



He wasn't able to deny it.

After seeing Renya nodding, Rona continued.

"At any rate, rather than uniting and cooperating in a bad mood, it would be more easy-going to work independently on top of a definite separation, isn't that what you thought?" (Rona)

"As for whether that might be the truth or not... is it a topic we should talk about here?" (Renya)

"Is there any problem? It won't be heard by the other parties, will it?" (Rona)

Although the road was poorly maintained, causing the carriage to rattle and shake, a conversation could be somehow established while facing each other. But it was a situation where it wouldn't be possible to hear the others' voice if they were to slightly increase their distance from each other.

Renya's group's carriage was placed at the end of the line. As a consequence of the four carriages traveling in single file, there was no reason to be concerned about the conversation between Rona and Renya being leaked to the other parties even if they had very excellent ears.

Though there wasn't, Renya pointed with his gaze towards the coachman seat.

Towards Renya indicating that Shion could hear them Rona shook her head left and right.

"Because she is controlling the horse, she won't turn her attention to listening to us." (Rona)

"Such baka" (Renya)

"That's how it is. So, what did you do?" (Rona)

For an instant it crossed his mind to dodge the topic.

Even though Rona said that she wouldn't hear it, there was no more than a slight distance from the loading tray to the coachman's seat. It was a doubtful point to say that she really couldn't hear it.

But, even if she particularly heard it, since it wasn't a troublesome matter either, Renya obediently answered.

"It is as you say. Looking at the faces of the other parties, I thought of doing this when I heard their rank." (Renya)

"Can I hear the reason too?" (Rona)

"Ah, everyone there was high-ranked and there were a lot of people. I understood at once that they looked down upon us without a doubt. Such braggarts." (Renya)

Saying this, within Renya's mind mainly Zest's face rose to the surface.

Because an adventurer's rank, even more so than their real ability, was decided by taking into consideration such things as contributions towards the guild as well.

Therefore, something like being high-ranked didn't mean they were remarkable.

But Zest came snarling at them as soon as he heard Renya's group's rank.

"Rather than linking up with unpleasant companions, we will certainly be at ease working independently. Besides, there is also no reason to treat ourselves to exploring the dungeon together with everyone in such numbers, don't you agree?" (Renya)

"...Yes, that's right, isn't it? Usually you would split into two groups or something like that. One group remaining outside the dungeon would be the normal way of handling things." (Rona)

Even though with something like 19 people there would be no way to move through the narrow passages of the dungeon. Everyone entering and exploring at the same time would have an exceedingly poor efficiency.

Generally the roles would be divided and it would be decided who would perform the exploration, Rona said.

In this case, although the party staying outside the dungeon would draw the short end of the stick, in the situation the exploring party didn't come back, since a part of their duty was to go to the city to request a rescue, as for maintaining a lifeline, it was the necessary method to choose in case the amount of participants was large.

“If that’s the case, it is likewise fine to divide the exploration into four different directions.” (Renya)

“Personally I don’t recommend doing that.” (Rona)

Even though the matter spoken of wasn’t that weird or unusual, they would be exploring a dangerous area without a lifeline if they followed through with what Renya said.

I guess Rona, who wants to put safety first, will find it difficult to approve my opinion.

“But don’t you think it is likewise dangerous to act in a situation of poor cooperation with unreliable teammates?” (Renya)

“Indeed, I can agree with such a view.” (Rona)

“Anyway, I plan to move with a strategy of working reasonably without overdoing it within the regulated number of days.” (Renya)

“It is a splendid strategy, leader. I completely support it.” (Rona)

Even for Rona, who was mainly concerned about safety first, Renya’s plan should be something that should cause her to raise both hands in agreement.

How far will you go for Shion’s sake? Renya smiled wryly.

“So, will we immediately start capturing the dungeon once we arrived while jolting our way to the dungeon’s entrance?” (Renya)

“By no means, doesn’t the journey take one day? Today we will camp close to the entrance of the dungeon. The dungeon capture will start from tomorrow onwards.” (Rona)

“Camping today, huh? ...I don’t expect we will be able to get a meal.” (Renya)

As Renya gloomily grumbled, Rona laughed.

Shion, who probably heard that laughter, raised her voice in complaint.

“Somehow... you two having such a fun chat has me worried.” (Shion)

“We haven’t talked about anything important. Leaving that aside, you should concentrate on the driving.” (Rona)

“I wish you could change with me once in a while...” (Shion)

She was in a situation where there wasn’t anyone she could talk with, as it was an important task to take care that the horse walked in a straight line by grasping the reins tightly. *Earnestly continuing the control of the horse is something extraordinarily difficult.* Renya, who couldn’t handle a horse, could likewise tell by simple imagination.

“If I were able to handle a horse, I would trade places with you anytime.” (Renya)

“If that’s the case, since I can teach with great attention to detail how to move your hips, won’t you have a go once, Renya?” (Shion)

As Shion looked over her shoulder laughing with a broad grin, Renya, who couldn’t endure it, shouted.

“It has nothing to do with how I move my hips?! Rather, where did you learn such an expression? I wonder whether you could properly teach me just even once? Also, stop that kind of laughter.” (Renya)

“Renya-san, Shion is likely bored...” (Rona)

Secretly casting down her eyes, Rona apparently pretended to not have heard Shion’s words somehow.

Even though Rona hadn’t taught Renya regarding who and where from Shion was until now, if she was originating from a noble bloodline as Rona had said, you could pretty much expect Shion to be classified as a person referred to as ohimesama (*Princess*).

The reality was that she was engaging in lightly dirty jokes while broadly grinning about it. And, apparently it was a fact that Rona, who was attending her, couldn’t bear to look him in the eyes due to that.

“Before it escalates any more, may I request you to keep her company...?” (Rona)

Without trying to cover for anyone, Rona’s words suggested a possibly even more outrageous situation.

As for Renya, though he didn't particularly mind listening and talking about indecent topics, it might not be the same for Rona. Thus he got up from his seat.

"Understood. You've had quite a hard time of it." (Renya)

While seeing Rona softly holding down the inner corner of her eyes (*ED: Keeping a poke face*), Renya safely moved on top of the swaying carriage load transom and sat down on the coachman's seat receiving the reins from Shion.

After that, by taking Shion's hand, he took lessons in handling a horse, for a while.

As expected there was no need to move one's hips. Renya received from Shion the basics in how to deal with a horse with great attention. Somehow or other it came to the point where he was able to drive the carriage in a straight line.

Just taking the opportunity, Rona also changed with Renya. Shion, who sat next to her, taught her attentively. And now, although Renya didn't fail to notice Shion extending her hands firmly around Rona's waist, the two appeared to be messing around while making a **kyaa kyaa** noise. A considerably threatening glare came piercing from the carriage in front of them.

Maybe we are too loud? Or there isn't enough of a feeling of tension? Or what to do you intend to do if you call monsters like that? considering various possibilities, Renya didn't intend in the least to caution the clamoring two even though he quite clearly understood the gaze. The two began to grapple on top of the coachman's seat, although absentmindedly, he properly gazed at them.

Renya thought.

In the first place, two beautiful girls fooling around in something like a scene of light antics, just seeing that is a healing for me. So to say, it is something that should be called a sight for sore eyes.

While it may be true that this might invite a small amount of trouble, it would be a great mistake to look at them with an accusing gaze, Renya was thinking.

If we were to travel within some dim forest, certainly it might be viewed as a problem, but currently we are traveling on a normal road. It is a place that is kept fairly secure.

Furthermore, tentatively, there are also 19 adventurers present. Since two girls making

a racket is making them overly angry, I guess they don't possess a great deal of tolerance, huh?

Renya remembered looking at each party's member at the time of introductions.

Zest's party only had women.

It wouldn't be strange for an uproar coming from there either, although he thought that, Zest's carriage was advancing as the vanguard of the four carriages. From what he had seen they were strangely peacefully advancing.

Zest himself held a small silver-haired girl within his arms. Although he was sitting in a posture of having his legs stretched out after all, Renya noticed the other party members exchanging **chira chira** gazes and then turning away.

Somehow, the little girl in Zest's arms seemed to be his favorite. The other members restrained each other. The current situation seemed to be a standstill.

It was another girl, than the little girl held in Zest's arms, who threw the knives at Renya yesterday.

It was easy to see that she was a magician from the fact that she wore a robe, which had a design that had been altered, and held a cane.

At a glance, although it didn't appear to be a harem party filling any man with envy, moving to such an extent behind the scenes, you wouldn't consider it by any measure from the visible attitude of the party.

However, Zest's mind wasn't in a state where he would notice that.

Was he a big-shot? Or was he a baka?

After thinking for a short while, Renya concluded that it probably had to be the latter.

Continuing, it was Hartz' carriage, but somehow there was an atmosphere as if they were attending a funeral, wrapped in silence and with dark feelings.

All members were checking their equipment and making sure to be focused. They kept the occasionally occurring conversations to the utmost necessary minimum. There was no sign that they would continue their conversation.

For the time being, even though the female members were also associating with each other, you couldn't catch a hint of something like gorgeousness or youthfulness.

In return, as it felt somehow like the composed way of talking of quite influential personage. Renya stopped observing them as looking at them was somewhat suffocating.

Incidentally, Renya didn't cover Az's party traveling in the third position from the beginning.

The reason for that was quite simple.

There were only four sets of armors and a gloomy magician riding on that carriage.

But, after glancing at them there was something unexpected, apparently a fairly good rapport between Az and the four sets of armor had been established.

After all, being close as guards and with the duty of serving as shields, in its own way this was a relationship of mutual trust, or rather, it might be natural in this situation for them to become close.

While thinking about such things, Renya shook alongside the vibrations of the wagon. While earnestly being fed up with having his hips and buttock being harassed by the hard wood, the line of carriages arrived at their destination.

CHAPTER 23

IT SEEMS TO BE THE DUNGEON'S ENTRANCE

Dungeon's entrance, hearing those words, Renya was reminded of something along the lines of there being something like a gate equipped with a grandiose door. An architectural structure really declaring its own existence as an entrance.

But, trying to ask Shion's group about it, although there seemed to be such unusual dungeon entrances as well, apparently those architectural structure type dungeons with such neat entrances could be listed in the category of being quite rare.

So, what kind of entrance does a living type dungeon have then?

The answer to that was the entrance in front of Renya's eyes.

"...Here?" (Renya)

Asking the question while pointing at it, Shion's group nodded while indicating their agreement with an *un un.*

In regards to the vicinity, the place was on a slightly elevated hill.

At the summit of that hill, as if it was normal, there was a wide opening of a dark shaft which somehow allowed a single adult to pass through it.

It was really just a hole.

There wasn't a door or anything like that either.

The location was right in the midst of a grassland straying a bit from the road.

Except for the sporadically visible growing grove of trees, there was nothing else there.

Renya was disappointed as he had imagined something a lot more exaggerated.

For the time being this dungeon entrance can be classified as being merely a hole, huh?
In order to descend deeper into the hole, there were some stairs. (ED: Imagine stairs

in a removable floor style entrance to a basement. That kind of disappointing entrance.)

“Living type dungeon... ?” (Renya)

“That’s right” (Shion)

“And why the stairs?” (Renya)

“If there weren’t any stairs, you wouldn’t be able to descend down there, isn’t that right?” (Shion)

Even though the appearance of Shion was as if she wanted to inquire as to why he asked such an obvious thing, Renya cocked his head in puzzlement while feeling not being fully satisfied with something.

Doesn’t this feel like it’s kindly asking us to come down in order to carefully lure us in?

This question was answered by Rona.

“For the sake of it’s own growth, the living type dungeon wants living creatures to visit it. Occasionally it is necessary for the dungeon to absorb the corpse of a living creature, that emits magic power and life force. For this reason it stockpiles things like rare metals within itself and it is said that those will be arranged as treasures.” (Rona)

“Is it fine to somewhat understand it as bait to lure in people?” (Renya)

“It definitely isn’t a mistake to think so.” (Rona)

“Despite spawning monsters, it needs resources from the outside, huh?” (Renya)

“One theory is that after a while has passed since it was spawned, a monster seems to use the resources of the dungeon... but there are only a very few people investigating these circumstances.” (Rona)

“Why?” (Renya)

“A young dungeon will be swiftly captured and its core will be destroyed in order to exterminate it. Leaving a dungeon alone for months and years so that these things can be studied, due to the danger, there is no leeway for such a thing.” (Shion)

Shion explained.

Upon the destruction of the dungeon core, the dungeon would slowly vanish.

Since the dungeon core could be used as a high quality magic gem, it was a business involving a large sum of money.

And so, just as the dungeon was generated, because the amount of monsters was scarce as well as its stratum being shallow, the adventurers ended up quickly exterminating it for money.

A dungeon avoiding the notice of adventurers or luckily cutting down the adventurers, who came to capture it, could transform into a being of grave danger with the passage of months and years causing its stratum to become deep and enabling it to summon something like high ranking monsters.

In that situation even money wouldn't be worth the risk any more for adventurers. For the researchers, their objective of their study would be compromised before long due to the extreme danger and continuing the research would become very difficult anyway in such a case.

Shion said that this was the kind of thing called a living type dungeon.

"In other words, it remains a mystery, huh?" (Renya)

"Maa... that's right." (Rona)

Mystery, such a word was quite convenient, Renya earnestly believed.

"All things considered, this dungeon isn't very lucky." (Shion)

Shion said while going around and surveying the vicinity.

Although the elevation wasn't very high, since the surroundings were completely plain, it was possible to look quite far into the distance while viewing from the top of the hill from its only slight height.

"It's as if it was asking to be discovered having sprung forth in such a place." (Rona)

"Maybe the dungeon itself made this hill?" (Renya)

“Un, that’s probably right. I think the part that is the entrance and stairs was risen above the ground.” (Shion)

If we assume that it is as Shion says, it would be a very stupid story. Renya thought.

Because there was nothing obstructing the view of the vicinity, any kind of change in the terrain would be immediately noticeable.

Also, the place being where it was, you could say it wasn’t located more than a few hundred meters away from the road.

Even though it would likewise be possible to use a terrain with many ups and downs for deception or for it to be deep within a forest, in the current situation even that was an impossible story.

Right after being born, the dungeon would be terminated for the sake of money. Although it wasn’t a living thing in a stricter sense, it somehow ended up inviting pity.

“It’s always a sorrowful story. As there are many things someone would desire scattered about within, this dungeon shares such a lonely story as well.” (Renya)

While looking at the top of the hill from its bottom, Renya said.

“Is it alright to make camp this close to it?” (Renya)

Since the hill itself wasn’t very high, it was naturally a short distance to its bottom, too.

At a place no more than 10 meters away from the dungeon’s entrance, the carriages of the other parties were parked. They had started to prepare the camping ground.

The carriage, which Renya’s group used to get here, was also tied to a stake which had been stuck at a location close by.

“In a place with such a good view it will be alright. I think it will be safe as it will be difficult for animals to approach and monsters won’t appear either.” (Rona)

“And the possibility of monsters coming from the dungeon?” (Renya)

“There is none. Basically, monsters that spawn within the dungeon won’t leave it. Although it has already happened that a dungeon spit out monsters causing a

phenomenon called <Breach> after having raised its scale to a certain extent, this is something that only occurs once every ten years with an aged dungeon.” (Shion)

“More importantly, shouldn’t we start preparing our campsite?” (Rona)

The time having passed through to the evening, little by little it started to become dark as night had crept upon them.

Thinking that it would be better to finish the preparations while there was still some light from the sun remaining, Rona urged them to go down from the hill.

Arriving at the side of the bound carriage, Renya took out the luggage prepared by Rona from his [Inventory].

Without [Inventory], or rather this skill called void storage, it would be quite difficult to survive, Renya judged.

Thanks to this it wasn’t necessary to place the luggage on the clattering carriage load tray.

Because of the other parties putting quite the amount of luggage at their feet, it could be expected that the space on the carriage load tray was quite narrow for the members boarding it with the exception of the coachman’s seat. Since Renya’s party was able to use the space of the carriage load tray, it was possible for them to lie down properly during the journey.

But then again it wasn’t possible to get any decent sleep because of the vibration.

At first he took out a wooden hammer, a sharp triangle tip with a width of around 30 cm, 10 planks of about 1 m length and a shovel.

Digging a hole at a place in the shadows of the carriage seen from the other parties side, he completed a simple toilet by completely enclosing that area with something like a partitioning screen by hammering in the planks.

Then he dug a shallow hole a bit away from the toilet location next.

Enclosing the area with stones, the fire place was finished.

Erecting metal fittings in the shape of the character Y and then placing a pole on top

of them, it served as cooking tool to hang the pot there.

Renya picked up the stones in the surroundings of the city before departure.

The stones, even though one cell of the grid was consumed when a separate item was stored away in the [Inventory], after stuffing the stones into a bag, it resulted in taking only one cell of the grid with [Bag filled with Stones] no matter how many he put in there.

As it was a method that disregarded the weight, he understood that something like this was a cheat setting no matter how you looked at it.

Finishing this, next he constructed the tent.

Setting up the fulcrum, he covered it with a cloth and affixed it to a stake that was hammered into the ground.

As long as he was able to properly understand how to make something, it wasn't hard work at all.

Without spending significant time either, Renya finished constructing the tent.

It was only one tent.

Gazing at the shape and quality of the tent he had constructed, Renya opened his mouth.

"Naa, I should build another one after all..." (Renya)

"Isn't that pointless?" (Shion)

Was the immediate reply from Shion.

Within the camp it was settled that one person of the party had to stand guard.

In case of constructing two tents here, for male and female use, it would doubtlessly develop into a situation of one of the tents not being used for a period of time.

This being dismissed as pointless by Shion, he gave up on it.

To Renya's objection of a man and woman in the same tent and so on, Shion tragically shot it down by declaring that there wouldn't be any problem as they would sleep in sleeping bags anyway and since he would be asleep he didn't have to mind Rona either.

"Is there some problem?" (Shion)

Although Renya was in the mood of hanging on to his argument, he couldn't find a valid complaint. As he looked at Rona in order to receive help, she indicated that such a measure wasn't unacceptable this way and only shrugged her shoulders.

"Aren't we companions? Or will Renya be in pain by sleeping next to Rona or me?" (Shion)

"In a certain sense you could say that it will cause pain, but it's not to the extent of weeping either." (Renya)

While giving up on them understanding that pain, Renya took out ceramic containers which contained a liquid and a pot from his [Inventory].

He had received the liquid from the inn's master who shared it with him.

It was the soup which had spend time extracting the essence of various types of vegetables and animal bones boiling at a simmer. To Renya's tongue the flavor was like consomme from his previous world.

This was what Renya had requested from the inn's master to share with him and what he had preserved in his [Inventory].

Below the pot, he placed firewood and quickly using a flint to ignite the firewood, the fire spread.

Even though it would have been fine to ask Shion to use , it was a lot faster to finish it this way rather than calling out to her. Ignoring the somehow unhappy seeming Shion as much as possible he tried to focus on continuing his work.

Getting the ingredients ready, he prepared the ingredients with the kitchen knife they bought alongside the foodstuff.

Peeling the skin off the vegetables, he cut them into appropriate sizes and tossed them into the pot.

Though they had mainly chosen to purchase root crop-like things, Renya didn't know their names.

For the time being, when he ate the cooked vegetables at the market, they were quite delicious. All of them were goods selected by the shop owners at the designated stores.

As for the meat, although Renya was truly a bit surprised, besides selling meat from livestock and wild animals, it was also normal to sell monster meat.

In case of stew, the salesperson recommended meat of the horn rabbit to be the best. Even though Renya decided to buy it, without trying it first he wouldn't be able to understand its kind of taste.

He swiftly cut the lump of meat into mouth-sized pieces and tossed them into the pot as well.

Lightly frying the ingredients in the pot, he added the soup he had received to it and also a little bit of water allowing the stew to boil.

Sampling with only a small scoop of the soup, he adjusted the flavor with salt and pepper, which had become common for some reason in this world, and the dish was finished. *(T/N: Usually pepper was a luxurious ingredient in medieval ages, that's why the MC's comment on it.)*

It was really just a simple stew with vegetables and meat.

Although Renya was dissatisfied with it, he garnished the stew with the hard baked bread completing the modest dinner.

Dividing the servings, rather than using something like a shallow soup plate, he chose something with a little more depth.

As we will eat it outdoors, I think it will be easy to spill it if the bottom is too shallow, Renya worried.

While he was at it, he took out several fruits to serve them alongside.

After all it would be a bad situation to not have a dessert following the meal.

The chosen fruit was a peach-colored round fruit called nectar *(T/N: >> nekuta <<)*.

The skin was soft enough that it could be peeled off with the fingers. As he tore it off plenty of fruit juice spilled and the pure white flesh of the fruit became visible.

Although its appearance reminded Renya of a peach, the sourness he felt alongside the sweetness while trying to eat it was yet at another potency. Even though it was something totally different from what he had imagined, since this sourness felt refreshing, it became his favorite sweet food.

Adding spoons to the soup bowls, Renya thought it to be wearisome in some way to eat those while sitting on the ground. Thus he took out a table, which cozily had the height of around the waist, from his [Inventory] and lined up the dishes on top of it. Renya noticed that the mood in his vicinity somehow turned strange.

He felt that the gaze, which was directed at him from Shion and Rona, was holding both emotions, being somehow amazed and being astonished.

From the other parties he felt amazement, or anger, or envy, or other somehow not quite comprehensible gazes directed at him.

Looking at the other parties, they were sitting directly on the ground, having ignited an open fire, eating a light brown somethings that could be deemed to be dried meat alongside some crunchy hard bread they had toasted, which seemed to be the same bread that Renya's party had. Although he didn't know whether it was water, ale or wine, they were drinking something. That was what they had for dinner.

"What is it?" (Renya)

"Now, how should I say it? Although it is a good thing to have abundant eating habits..." (Shion)

"We just have to get used to Renya-san." (Rona)

"Since I had to rush the preparations, there are still various rough points to be addressed." (Renya)

Even though it was good fortune to have received a share of the soup from the inn, it was painful that he couldn't collect more accurate seasonings, Renya said.

Originally there would be more things like herbs or spices. Though he wanted to wake up early in order to collect and buy more things for testing like sauces and vinegar,

there wasn't any kind of time for that.

"You can deal with this problem next time, this time you will have to endure with this. I wasn't able to arrange anything but either water or wine for drinking. This is also a task for next time." (Rona)

"No, I think being able to say something like me having to endure with this is a luxury in its own way." (Renya)

Because normally adventurers kept the amount of luggage to as little as possible, Renya was also aware that the action of bringing along their kitchen utensils and the likes wasn't the norm.

However, since the [Inventory] was such a convenient item, such a thing like not using it would be a waste.

On top of that, even for washing the used dishes and utensils with water afterwards, because he had put one barrel completely filled with water into his [Inventory], there was no reason to not use it for their hands either.

"Since we also have chairs, please properly tell me if it is unpleasant to eat while standing. I have chairs for all three of us." (Renya)

Taking it this far up to here, as you would expect, even the gazes of the other parties facing into this direction, though most of their looks turned into holding envy, he warded it off by not being concerned about this at all. Renya began to taste his own dinner right away.

Albeit slightly delayed, Shion's group started to also eat the dinner lined up on the table with relish while likewise experiencing the slightly disconcerting gazes the other parties sent their way.

「いや、これで我慢とか言ったら
贅沢が過ぎる」

シオン＝ファム＝
ファタール

森の中で同業者に襲われているところを
蓮弥に助けられた見習い剣士。
少々世間知らずの気がある。

ローナ＝
シュヴァリエ

シオンと行動を共にする僧侶。
持ち前の美貌を武器に蓮弥に迫るが
何か裏があるらしく……

「手馴れてますねえレンヤさん」

「急いで準備したから、
色々と不満は残るがね」

くぬぎ
功刀 蓮弥

大往生した末に、神様に乞われて異世界へ。
どうやら前世でいろいろやらかしていたらしく、
身体能力が異常に高い。



CHAPTER 24

IT SEEMS TO BE A STRANGE STORY

Renya chose to stand guard at night as second.

Although the sequential order of the turns in the rotation were Shion, then Renya and finally Rona, there was a specific reason for doing it this way.

After finishing the meal and taking a rest, the things like tableware etc. were cleaned and put back into the [Inventory]. Considering that there was around 8 hours until the next morning after going to sleep, when it came to standing watch, as there were 3 people, it turned into one person having a 2 hour shift and 2 having a 3 hour shift.

For the sake of Shion, who had the first 2 hours shift, there was only one possible option for who had to do the second shift.

Thus, with Renya taking the second shift, Shion and Rona were able to sleep for a long uninterrupted time.

As he had the second shift, he had to endure interrupted sleeping hours as he would sleep for 2 hours, then stay awake for 3 hours and then go sleep for yet another 3 hours.

This was simply hard.

Since he certainly understood that it would be difficult, there was no way to make Shion's group do that.

However, there are no clocks in this world.

While there are no clocks, how do they measure the time? Speaking of that, for some reason hourglasses exist. The adventurers were able to roughly measure one hour with a portable hourglass.

As he measured the timing by frequently turning the hourglass upside down in alternation, time passed without anything happening that night and before long the day dawned.

The problem occurred at dawn.

Changing the guard with Rona, Renya crawled into his own sleeping pack and, single-mindedly closing his eyes and ears, he fell asleep. In the middle of entering and exiting a drowsy and shallow sleep, he was awoken by the feeling of suffocation.

To start with, he noticed that he couldn't move his body at all.

Because he was inside the sleeping bag, even though he was aware that he was unable to do anything more than squirming around like a caterpillar (Lit: bagworm), even those wriggling movements were partially sealed off in his current state.

Furthermore he felt something heavy on top of his body.

He rejected the first thought of being attacked from the beginning.

In case it was Shion on watch outside, it would be a conceivable possibility, but currently it was Rona who was standing guard outside.

Even if she were in a mood like *poya poya*, it appears that beyond being someone who received training in her own way, the person herself was a knight.

Therefore it was difficult to imagine her allowing someone to attack without even raising her voice.

If that's the case in this situation, the other person inside the tent had to be taken into consideration from the start. That's the reasoning he arrived at.

"No no! For such an overused event to actually occur, there is..." (Renya)

The shape of the sleeping bag is easy to understand if you imagined a single person entering the length of a pouch.

In order to enhance its nature of retaining warmth the bag was made out of clothes filled with cotton. For the sake of not letting the air inside escape it had a drawstring near the head.

Since warmth is something essential for somehow sleeping comfortably, they thought it to be something convenient for travelers, but it was a purchased article which was extremely unpopular with adventurers because you would be delayed in dealing with

suffering a sudden attack no matter what you do.

Although Renya decided to absolutely remodel it sooner or later, at the time he saw it for the first time, he hadn't this kind of time right now. At the time of reluctantly entering the sleeping bag, he entered it holding his knife. He made it a rule for using the sleeping bag so that he could tear it apart from the inside when he tried to leave in case of an emergency.

Even though it was more or less normal for commoners to put on a light blanket for sleeping, Renya, who strongly opposed this by stating that he wouldn't be able to sleep in such thin bedding, could be called the cause of bringing along the sleep bags.

Given that sort of circumstances, he only bend his neck looking at the top of his chest. There he saw the appearance of a head with black hair somewhat pressing and grinding against his chest.

As expected, it would become a nuisance while sleeping, huh? The usually done up hair placed high on her head was naturally spilling down the back. But, despite this being the only difference, he was surprised to feel that she somehow had a more than usual powerful feminine allure.

The facial expression, which always gave off the feeling of looking dignified, is slovenly happy. Is that because of her still being half asleep? Although Renya wasn't able to guess what kind of dream she had, she sometimes rubbed her head and face with a grinding sound.

Suppressing his boiling head with the force of reason, Renya sorted out his current condition.

Though I don't know how it came to be, Shion has skilfully crawled out of her sleeping bag. Since it is within the camping ground for the time being, we will be able to immediately deal with it in case something happened. As she had entered the bag wearing a thin shirt and trousers. I guess she was able to withstand the night's coldness in that outfit.

Although it would be originally fine for her to return to her own sleeping bag, he deemed it impossible for her to be that skillful while still asleep, even if she wanted to.

Therefore Shion clung with all her might to the bundle right next to her trying to get

cosy, I suppose?’

If the contents of that bundle were Rona, it wouldn't have been a big problem. Unfortunately, the contents were Renya.

What kind of look would Rona have if she were to find us at this point? was something he didn't know. Even though Renya tried to somehow escape from within Shion's embrace, since Shion was fully using both her arms and legs to tightly cling to Renya, Renya was in the state of a caterpillar in the sleeping bag. He wasn't able to slip away while wriggling and since he couldn't extract his hands from the sleeping bag, he couldn't tear it off either.

On top of that Shion's head was placed on top of Renya's chest to begin with. Furthermore, as consequence of the sleeping back being thick and stiff, such things as the pleasant fragrance of a girl and her soft touch, as it was told in some tales to be the side benefit for typical protagonists, couldn't even be felt at all.

She had merely become a restraining device.

Moreover, in case they were discovered like this, it would cause a lot of misunderstandings, resulting in bringing damage on the scale of a god of pestilence.

This is how highly Renya valued getting Shion off in this current condition.

“Hey! ...Wake up. Shion?” (Renya)

“Nyu...?” (Shion)

Due to the somehow weird reaction, Renya ended up in silence for a short while.

Towards him calling out to Shion, she only showed a slight reaction similar to being cranky and immediately ended up once again falling asleep gripping the sleeping bag and grinding her head against it.

“Ne...” (Shion)

“Don't utter such strange groans. Hey! You got to seriously wake up! If we are discovered by Rona in such place, It will become something disastrous for me...” (Renya)

“...What is it about me?” (Rona)

Looking at the entrance of the tent because of the slow voice, Rona came and poked only her head inside the tent with a sleepy facial expression with her eyelids half closed.

Renya felt uneasy about that expression wondering whether she would raise her voice finally after first misunderstanding the situation. *I have to somehow wake Shion, huh?* Though he struggled violently to escape from within her arms, he stopped writhing as he noticed that there wasn't any kind of reaction from Rona either after a short time.

Looking at Rona, because of her posture of having only poked in her head first, she motionlessly stared at Renya and Shion with her still sleepy face.

Although her mood felt somehow odd, Renya timidly called out to her.

“O-Oi. Rona?” (Renya)

“...ai” (Rona)

Her reaction is odd after all.

Notwithstanding that she should have slept for at least 5 hours, it felt like it wouldn't even be strange for those eyelids to completely sink in at any time as she was repeatedly opening and closing them.

“... What's wrong? ...” (Renya)

“For some reason I am... somehow terribly... sleepy.” (Rona)

“What the heck's with you? What are you saying...” (Renya)

“Uu... I am sleepy. Shion, you are hugging something nice...” (Rona)

As she stared fixedly, Renya became flustered again.

“No. Being seen getting up like this... it will cause another weird mood.” (Renya)

“Well... Shion is unhappy unless she has something to cuddle with. Although recently I didn't see this behavior very often... In the first place, even if you getting up would

cause a strange mood... Renya-san, you can't take out your hands from there, right?" (Rona)

That is certainly true.

Even though it was said that just moving within the sleeping bag was already difficult as well, Renya was in a state of being embraced by Shion with both arms. As both of Renya's arms were tightly restrained, he wasn't able to move.

Tentatively, since he held a knife in his arms, he should be somehow capable of cutting the bag in the end, but on top of the sleeping bag not being such a cheap item, it wasn't a state of emergency where his life was directly in danger either. Thus it would be wasteful to completely destroy it by cutting it apart.

"Rona, I am unable to move like this. Can you tear off Shion one way or another ..."

(Renya)

"Ah, you seem to be a good hug pillow, no...?" (Rona)

"He?" (Renya)

Not understanding what she was talking about, Renya responded with an idiotic voice. Sweetly smiling with her usual smile, Rona intruded the inside of the tent and sidled up to him.

He felt that her appearance was somehow like lioness moving towards its prey. Trying to retreat, Renya couldn't wriggle away after all.

"I am... extremely sleepy, you know?" (Rona)

"Just wait a second, what about standing guard?" (Renya)

"In such safe place, there aren't any monsters or humans that would attack us." (Rona)

On the opposite side of where Shion was clinging, Rona threw herself down. In order to do the same thing as Shion, she tightly squeezed Renya's sleeping bag.

"Well then, good night..." (Rona)

"Wait, stop it! This is definitely strange!" (Renya)

Because he was squeezed from both sides, Renya wasn't even able to wriggle anymore.

While rubbing her face against him with grinding sounds, just like Shion, Rona said,

"Rather than Shion's light pressing, the way of my pressing is heavy. I guess Renya feels good as well..." (Rona)

Suddenly pressing upon me like that in one go, is the volume of fabric of a different kind? Even her clearly detectable softness is being transmitted through the cloth of the sleeping bag.

Unintentionally thinking that it would be also fine to stay like this, Renya shook his head in a hurry.

"Well, a problem of that sort... the heck, what kind of difference does it make whether it is heavy or light?!" (Renya)

Somehow Shion's expression became sullen and she filled her arms with strength.

Even under normal circumstances it was a tight restraint, but right after tightening even more, Renya got the feeling as if he had somehow heard an improper sound from the area of his chest or arms.

As Rona was conversely in some way elated with her success, Shion made sure to entangle him with her arms in such a way that Renya's body was giving off a grinding sound while being constricted with force.

On one side there was a swordsman, even though she's an apprentice.

On the other side there was an apparently official knight, although self-proclaimed.

Those fellows had doubtlessly trained that arm strength well in order to wield their weapons. Renya's body screamed in pain from having something like that on both sides.

"O-ouch!? It's breaking!? I will be torn to pieces!? You two, get away from me!" (Renya)

"n~...ya~..." (Shion)

"Didn't I tell you? I am sleepy..." (Rona)



Although Renya didn't catch up with comprehending the feeling of the situation, apart from the circumstances of the two, an alarm began to resound within Renya's head.

This situation is odd.

It is not about two woman embracing me.

It is about the matter of Rona, who should be vigilant in standing guard, complaining about sleepiness, even more so without resisting it.

She introduced herself as a knight one way or another. Thus she should have received some kind of training. And yet it is difficult to believe is being this negligent towards her guard duty and succumbing to drowsiness as she was certainly chosen as Shion's guard by some unknown person with an apparently reasonably high rank from somewhere.

However, the reality was that Rona was embracing Renya's sleeping bag starting to carelessly drift asleep.

This would normally be impossible.

As Renya was by now certain that he had to destroy the sleeping bag and forcibly regain the freedom of his body, when he put his strength into the hand holding the knife, it came.

Renya was violently assaulted by sleepiness.

Impossible! he shouted in a corner of his mind.

Certainly, my sleeping time was irregular, but I got a reasonable amount of sleep.

Furthermore, waking up upon seeing this kind of situation, something like drowsiness was completely blown away. And still, why is it? I remember it being difficult for drowsiness to take effect.

"Artificial... or the attack of something inhuman?" (Renya)

If I were to surrender to the sleep assault, I fear it to be likely that I won't wake up for a long time. That's my premonition.

If that's the case, it will end up in the three of us being in a state of being completely

defenselessness.

Staying like this can be thought of as being incredibly dangerous for our lives.

“Shall we strike to kill those guys in one go?”

Such a voice reached Renya’s ears as he was frantically fighting the drowsiness.

Towards the word ‘kill’ the core of his mind grew cold and he realized that the sleepiness drew back.

“Isn’t now the only chance to do that shit?”

“You should stop it. Though we chose the method of attacking with <Sleep> magic, there are times when it will be completely dissolved by sounds or pain. It’s not so bad if it’s just a single person, but in case it is several people huddled together, it is better to not make a move.”

“Tsk. It’s can’t be helped. Maa, I just have to do with seeing the stupid looks on their faces afterwards.”

The presences of the people outside the tent moved.

The voices sounded familiar.

It was the rough voice of that guy called Zest.

Stopping his action, as it was the voice of a young woman, I think it was most likely their magician, Renya guessed.

It somehow seems that they used magic to cause the living things in the entire area to fall asleep.

However, why do such a thing? Although Renya considered it, he reached no solution.

While he was in that state, for some reason it seemed like various presences were moving outside. Becoming distant after a short while, the sounds vanished.

What the hell has happened outside?

As he didn't get any answer to his question, while racking his brain the extent of danger by being pressed hard from both sides gradually increased. *Will I ever be able to leave this tent safely?* Renya became worried.

CHAPTER 25

IT SEEMS TO BE STEALING A MARCH

“They got us.” (Hartz)

Hartz said in absolute disgust.

The campsite put up by Zest’s group was completely removed last night. They did it without leaving any trace at all.

In contrast to Hartz, Az’s facial expression was similar to the time when they met him at the “Silver Cup.” Without apparently showing almost anything in his expression, on the surface it was extremely calm.

Speaking of Renya, he somehow had ~ you could call it a difficult facial expression. Scratching the vicinity of his left cheek with his index finger there were huge finger prints.

That cheek had become red without being able to distinguish whether it was due to stretching it or striking it.

Although Hartz was quite bothered about what had happened, as Renya’s party member Shion was at a place slightly apart from him with a bright red face and her body clad in armor while you could see her sitting in seiza, he somehow sensed that it was something he shouldn’t ask about.

After one way or another resisting that intense sleepiness.

Even though Renya had desperately trying to wake Shion and Rona up, was it due to the strength of the magic put in effect? Or was it due to both’s difficulty in waking up? No matter the degree of shaking and struggling, there was absolutely no indication of them waking.

The measure he chose was Renya’s final measure. Changing position he attacked the side of beneath the arm of Shion who was in a state of embracing. He tickled Shion’s body or rather he was groping it.

Although Renya had a feeling that the place he touched was her arm right next to her breast, in reality, Shion eerily asked where he was rubbing.

At any rate, he somehow sensed rubbing something soft.

As he touched that improper place, Shion, who was still half asleep, woke up while grumbling and confirmed the situation raising her head.

When she came to in that body posture, somehow her body was apparently groped by something. Her face began to dye red as her consciousness became clear.

At the time she tightly grasped her fist, Renya thought, *it can be said that this incident is my fault.*

As he didn't expect it to be hateful, he understood that he had to likewise resign himself to fate and receive the necessary one punch in this situation.

While thinking it was fine unless he had his bones or teeth broken, Renya watched the brandished fist. In the instant that fist was swung downward, he was pulled tightly by the side of Rona who was embracing him. Next he felt a light impact on his cheek and he ended up rolling until the end of the tent with a **goro goro** while Rona was clinging to him without change.

Due to the blow missing the course of impact on the body, he was able to escape from most of the damage.

Noticing Shion's attack, Rona pulled Renya to herself by a hair's breadth apparently doing so in order to lower the damage received by Renya.

If she was aware of the situation to such an extent, it would have been nice if she had stopped Shion. Even so he wasn't able to consider it like that and it was indispensable for him to be thankful that it ended with him not directly receiving Shion's attack.

Rather, thanks to rolling over while embracing him, since he felt various things touching him here and there with a **munyu munyu**, Renya decided to thank her from the bottom of his heart afterwards.

Apart from this.

At last crawling out from the sleeping bag and after putting his outfit in order, he left

the tent and saw that the other parties had suffered the magic attack as well. Some people were lying spread-eagled on the ground while sleeping and some were leaning against the tents while loudly snoring. Was there any sleepiness still remaining? Amongst those visible coming out from within their tents while shaking their heads, only Zest's group's tent had completely vanished.

"He stole a march on us?" (Renya)

"That's likely." (Hartz)

Towards Renya's short question, Hartz gave a short reply.

"It is a young dungeon having a likewise shallow stratum and it isn't very big either. Usually the appearing monsters are weak as well. Even so, you have to pay attention and generally the capture is done by several parties ..." (Hartz)

"So they're thinking that it will be enough if only they went, huh?" (Renya)

"Probably that's it. Since I think there are no great treasures prepared by the dungeon yet either, their goal here should just be the dungeon core. As I guess that the guarding monsters are weak as well, I think they considered ensnaring the other parties as it is first come, first served." (Hartz)

"Humph" (Renya)

As Renya replied half-heartedly, Hartz face became 'at least talk to me.'

Even though they beat them to the punch, there wasn't any kind of impatience visible on Renya's face either.

Worried about that, Hartz decided to try asking.

"You are quite composed. Although it also depends on the size of the dungeon core, you can still expect it to have the value of a few dozen gold coins since this is a young dungeon. I wonder whether you don't think that it is regrettable?" (Hartz)

"Not particularly." (Renya)

Renya's answer was something that came out quite easily.

That plainness became the proof that Renya really thought like that.

“If we let only those guys capture the dungeon, it will turn out to be a conversation about helping them when they get into trouble. Although it is certainly regrettable about the large sum of money by selling the core off, we will still obtain the reward for completing the request even if we do nothing at all.” (Renya)

“I agree.” (Az)

It was Az who indicated his approval of Renya’s words.

Hartz looked into his direction with a face full of surprise. ‘I wonder what you are surprised about to make such strange face’ Az looked back at Hartz with such an expression.

“We receive money without having to work for it. It is almost enough that it would also be fine to write up a few lines of gratitude to that brown-dyed hair.” (Renya)

“That’s a good idea. I will write up something until they come out, I think.” (Az)

“You guys ...” (Hartz)

Hartz was astonished by the carefree conversation between Renya and Az.

No matter how much you say that they are youngsters, where the capturing of a dungeon is concerned, that party will gain a lot of prestige. It would become a reward that is many-fold more worthwhile than the retaining fee of the dungeon core.

Despite them snatching this from in front of their eyes, those two didn’t care about it at all. Hartz was wondering whether his own thinking had become outdated and was partly seriously worried about that.

But since being worried about it on top of being impatient wouldn’t give him an answer either way, Hartz said following in order to change the mood,

“What will you do if those guys fail?” (Hartz)

““It would be fine to just redo the capturing, don’t you think so?”” (Renya & Az)

They returned a harmonized reply.

Is that how it is? thought Hartz, but he was surprised by Renya's continuation.

"Even if they fail, since there are just small fry close to the outriders to finish off, the only reason for those guys to fail will be themselves. Thus they will be fine as long as they pay attention." (Renya)

"I see. That is a very efficient opinion. Renya, was it? I think I can only approve of your rational way of thinking as magnificent." (Az)

"No no, you two! Won't you save them in such a case?" (Hartz)

Renya and Az had a mutual understanding in ridiculous ways. As Hartz interjected in a hurry, both stayed silent at the same time and made a face as if saying "What is this guy talking about?"

Hartz reflected whether he said anything incorrect himself. In a disgusted voice Renya said,

"Arbitrarily advancing by themselves and arbitrarily failing by themselves, can you excuse me from wiping those guy's asses?" (Renya)

Towards Renya's negative answer, Az was nodding with a "Yes. Yes."

"Good grief. Since they went ahead on their own accord, I think they should bravely get themselves annihilated instead of doing something like behaving as if they want to at least run home." (Az)

"It would be best if they could shine by putting in a few sword strikes before they use up all their energy." (Renya)

"That's true, if they manage at least this much, it will be even fine to place a single flower in front of their graves as well." (Az)

"In front of their grave... do you plan to recover their corpses? I don't want to do such troublesome thing!" (Renya)

"I guess that's right as well... There won't be any problem if they vanish together with the dungeon at the time it disappears." (Az)

"You twoooo ..." (Hartz)

In response to the more and more excessive remarks, Hartz went beyond being shocked and nothing more than a sigh came out.

Az and Renya without showing any sign to pay attention to this returned to each others party and started to give instructions to prepare breakfast since there was no need to rush.

“Is that alright?” (Rona)

Because Shion was still sitting in seiza and blushing, Rona asked Renya in a whisper.

Renya calmly nodded to her question.

“It can be said that this dungeon isn’t overly vast. We will wait until just past noon. Won’t we somehow know the result of whether they succeeded or failed by then?”
(Renya)

Rather than such a matter, it was breakfast time. Renya skilfully cracked the firewood into small pieces. After igniting it, he took out a cookware resembling a fry pan from within his [Inventory] and placed it atop the fire.

Putting in a small quantity of oil, he spread out two pieces of bacon which were thickly cut.

After waiting for it to give off a good fragrance from roasting it, he cracked an egg, although he was certain it was an egg he didn’t know what has given birth to it, and spilled the contents on top of the pseudo-fry pan.

Renya believed that a bacon was delicious when it was roasted until it became crispy. He transferred the bacon and egg onto a plate after properly heating them up.

Renya was part of the sunny-side-up fried eggs with soy sauce faction. He still hadn’t discovered something corresponding to it (*T/N: soy sauce*) from his former world in this world though.

To make up for it, as there was no soy sauce, since he found fish sauce made out of fish being pickled in salt, he quickly gambled on using that and the dish was finished.

Accompanying this with salad and bread, he judged this to be adequate as breakfast. Unfortunately the bread commonly circulated in this world was difficult to eat as it

was far too hard.

Since it couldn't be avoided, as he happened upon a small quantity of a high-class item in this world, he heated up salted milk, which he had received from the inn, and stirred the small amount as soup. Then he put in what appeared to be small pieces of broken bread in there. He unraveled a grain vegetable looking like corn, crushed it and put it into the soup.

As it looked like he made pseudo-corn soup garnished with croutons by intuition, after sampling it and judging it to be a palatable meal with a "Maa maa" (*T/N: So so*), the dish was finished.

Serving that on a plate, the breakfast was complete after adding vegetable salad to it.

He used salt, pepper and vinegar to make a simple dressing for the salad.

"The breakfast is also extravagant." (Shion)

Having finally returned to reality, Shion leaked out her impressions while gazing at the top of the dining table.

Although you shouldn't go to the extent of calling something like this extravagant, were Renya's thoughts.

If I completed it more skilfully with the things I managed to acquire at the inn, it would have become an even more stylish meal, he thought, although that was an issue that couldn't be settled with only this much time.

"I guess it is something good if the meal is something delicious? Come on now, before it gets cold..." (Renya)

Starting to say that it was fine to eat, immediately next to Renya, he noticed Az's party somehow staring this way as they once again held jerky and bread as meal without a change for the better since last night.

Continuing from yesterday's dinner, they looked at his morning breakfast in envy. They were looking at Renya's group's dining table forgetting about the meal they held.

"Is it fine to serve it to our neighbors as well?" (Renya)

“If Renya is fine with that, I think it’s alright to do so, no?” (Shion)

“That’s right, I won’t oppose it.” (Rona)

After gaining the acknowledgement of both, Renya called out to Az.

“Don’t look this way with such wistful eyes. If you want it, we will split it with you. What will you do?” (Renya)

“N... is that so? Given that it has a nice odor, it seems to be delicious. Although I would be glad if I could receive a share of it, will it be fine for all of us here to get some?” (Az)

“No one will be left out. I think it would be pitiful to not let those guys join in. Even if it’s that ossan party... eh? Where did the ossan party go?” (Renya)

Surveying the surroundings, Hartz’ party couldn’t be found anywhere.

“If it’s about Hartz’ group, they entered the dungeon to chase after Zest.” (Az)

Is it because he is very caring? Or because he is greedy about money?

Although he hesitated to discuss the conclusion, apparently it could be taken as a choice by Hartz’ group to look into accompanying Zest’s party.

“That guy is being quite diligent once again. Ah, can you return the borrowed tableware? Also, divide the soup and please kill the jerk who made the bread you are holding. There is no plan for a second serving.” (Renya)

“We are already grateful for just being able to eat the soup.” (Az)

He made a somewhat larger quantity of soup thinking it might be possible to get a second serving, but since it wasn’t a sufficient quantity by any means after splitting it with 5 adults, he increased the quantity by topping it off with ingredients.

Because he ended up exhausting the soup he had received from the inn, he couldn’t deny feeling that he had become immature in the end. After Az’s party members put in their crumbled bread and shredded jerky, Renya’s soup received a mostly favorable evaluation.

Even if it is somewhat simple after all, what is there to disregard about a tasty, warm

meal if you put priority on suitability, Renya reconfirmed.

“For lunch I will boil some pasta. It will be perfect as we have tomato-like vegetables, cheese, pepper, meat and vegetables in stock.” (Renya)

Of course he had finished sampling all ingredients.

Although they met at the “Silver Cup”, given that the meet up was finished a lot faster than he planned, you could certainly say that these were the fruits of going around the market in the available time he had.

After Rona came back with supplies of jerky and bread generally used for 4 days, he complained with a staggering force and as a result he even accompanied her.

“Tell me, from where will you procure water for this?” (Az)

It wasn't possible to do something like boiling pasta with a meager amount of water.

Thus, a regular adventurer would never carry such amount of water in the midst of working just for the sake of cooking.

“I possess a void storage. If it's water, I put in heaps of barrels in there.” (Renya)

Incidentally, he even had a pot with a deep bottom for boiling the pasta. Renya had bought it precisely for that and brought it along.

“...I want to make a deal. I want you to join the negotiation.” (Az)

Relatively serious, Az began to talk with a quite pressing facial expression. Renya laughed while smiling.

“I guess that's fine. I am a relatively fair man if it comes to something like making a deal. Well then, what are you offering?” (Renya)

CHAPTER 26

IT SEEMS TO BE LUNCH WITHOUT SCRAMBLING

Eventually the negotiations ended smoothly.

Az offered something in exchange for Renya's lunch.

"It is an instruction for elementary magic of the attack system, how about that? It is something that will fetch a reasonable price. I get the feeling from you that your role is that of a swordsman, so you haven't learned offensive magic yet, right?" (Az)

Slowly drawing out the conditions in small steps, it was similar to gaining advantageous terms by delaying the negotiations. Az seemed to be uninterested in concluding the bargaining. Just in that moment he offered the best thing he himself could give.

Even Renya who was offered this was slightly surprised.

Going by the price list he was shown at Khalil's shop, if it was something with a reasonable price, Az had offered something having a value of 50 silver coins to start with.

If we were to talk about his previous world it would be equivalent to 50,000 yen.

If we assume the lunch price for the portions of 5 adult men, it could be commented to be quite extraordinary without a doubt.

"Quite lavish, no?" (Renya)

"I am not unwilling to give you this. All the more if it will allow us to eat something delicious in this place. My party members have a lot of hardships." (Az)

Az said while looking at the members who diligently devoted themselves to their role of being his shield.

Be that as it may, they take the role of a meat shield for the sake of gaining time for the spell casting and it seemed that they received genuine gratitude for their protection

from him. Although his unsociable facial expression didn't change, his voice was filled with his real feelings.

Somehow, with only that, Renya's feeling changed to it even being fine to just share lunch with them rather than proposing a deal. The current situation with the offered conditions by the other party would usually end up being called too good. Renya had a hunch that there was something different from what was promised.

"It's just that there are bad people in the city who make their living by excessively overcharging for these kinds of services. I will entrust one to you." (Az)

"I understand. With this the transaction is concluded." (Renya)

Even if I splurge a bit on the lunch, I won't be stricken by a curse, Renya was thinking.

"Well then, although I want to instruct you right away... what would be fine?" (Az)

"A high-powered blow? ...Something that obstructs the actions of an opponent by hitting them would be fine, but..." (Renya)

While recalling the matter about having a hopelessly low quantity of mana from Khalil's shop, Renya was pondering.

Although he tried to improve his magic ability by repeatedly practicing the [Light] magic for a splendid number of times since then, he didn't really feel as if it was something he could do. He didn't believe that he had improved very much.

As Renya's doctrine was to increase the number of moves rather than their firepower, when it came down to defeating numbers, he had no other options but to connect a sure-hit physical attack or bet on the weight of the blow.

Telling these matters to Az, after a while of considering, Az said,

"I guess for high firepower it would be <Small Fire Ball>. In case of obstructing their actions, it would be <Ice Stone>, but if you don't aim for damage infliction, I think <Wind Bind> would also be fine. You also have to have something like aptitude for it." (Az)

"I checked the aptitude at the magician Khalil's shop. I was told it is wind." (Renya)

“That fellow? If it was her examining you, there is no doubt about it, I guess... but wind, huh? If it is wind, then either <Wind Blades> or <Wind Bind> would be good.” (Az)

For cutting up things with wind, <Wind Blades>, and for dulling the movement by coiling wind around the feet, <Wind Bind>, Az explained.

As the type of <Wind Bind> went along with Renya’s style of magic, Az words hinted towards him not being very suited for <Wind Blades>.

“On the point of firepower it is far inferior to <Small Fire Ball>. If it is our vanguard members, even if they don’t apply any considerable defensive magic, they will easily defend against it.” (Az)

“Fumu... this is a point to be worried about...” (Renya)

After all, it is elementary magic, was something that Renya understood.

Although one might say the firepower was high, apparently with its power the most that <Small Fire Ball> could do in face of heavy armor was to the extent of causing petty scalding.

“My recommendation is <Small Fire Ball> after all. The user-friendliness is good and it has a wide usability so you don’t need to be very cautious about use against potential opponents.” (Az)

“The opinion of an expert is valuable. I will request this then, huh?” (Renya)

Once Renya decided, Az took out a scrap of paper from his luggage similar to the one he had seen in Khalil’s shop and affixed it to Renya’s forehead.

“Bestow, <Small Fire Ball>” (Az)

The paper affixed to his forehead vanished and since a similar message streamed in as he had seen before, Renya accepted the selection. (*T/N: The information terminal messages he means*)

“Spell, according to my power, shoot a Fire Ball.”

“Even if I continue to use this, how is it related to improving my magic capacity, I wonder?” (Renya)

“Ah, did you also hear about this method? If you practice magic, your magic capacity will naturally increase. However, the accepted theory says that it won’t increase much further than what you possess by nature, just that...” (Az)

Az said while apparently having difficulty in speaking about it.

It seemed to be something to take into consideration when Renya was told that he was lacking magic capacity at Khalil’s shop.

“It can’t be helped. Even if you can only use it as a one off spell it will increase your options in combat. Because of that, there is no reason to not use it.” (Az)

“By the way, what is it?” (Renya)

He asked as Az had taken an interest in something.

“About how many times have you become able to use the <Light> spell?” (Az)

“Let’s see...” (Renya)

Since he hadn’t even done something like counting, Renya tried to roughly calculate it mentally.

As it was something along the lines of simultaneously activating 16 instances with the most recent casting macro, how many times can it be implemented until it stops? He didn’t really pay any attention to that.

“Since it didn’t cause the mana to be exhausted with 16 parallel instances activated within an hour of 60 activations...” (Renya)

“...What was that?” (Az)

“At the least I can use as many as 960 castings, I think?” (Renya)

Hearing Renya talking smoothly about the number, Az’s facial expression became stiff.

Even though Az’s face was bluntly expressionless from the start, you could see it turn into even more of a carved statue than usual. Renya pondered whether he had said something odd and suddenly hit on an answer.

It is about me having been told that I have practically no magic capacity.

It isn't useful even if I practice to such an extent? That's quite shocking, Renya judged.

"I guess it can't be helped since I have no talent..." (Renya)

"If only I had the aptitude." Renya sighed due to those profane words. Cutting into that, those words were covered by Az.

"No talent, you say? You, what the hell are you saying about yourself? Don't you understand?" (Az)

"I do understand. Most likely I am not suited for it." (Renya)

"Don't say such stupid things. Listen! What I am about to tell you now, don't talk about it, okay?" (Az)



Suddenly bringing his face close, he lowered the volume of his voice. While also thinking that he wasn't really happy about a man drawing near, Renya nodded due to being pressured by the seriousness of Az's facial expression.

"First off, did you say parallel activation?" (Az)

"Eh, ah, un" (Renya)

"Although I am not even able to use magic with parallel activation... the limit is two."
(Az)

"Un?" (Renya)

An expert couldn't use more than two magic spells simultaneously.

If that is the truth, then what the hell does it mean for me to be even able to activate 16 at the same time?

"But in addition to the number of activations, if I were to keep up using <Light> without a break, I would be able to activate it around 100 times before using up the majority of my mana." (Az)

Looking at the Az's face in front of him, Renya was staring.

He honestly couldn't see a glimpse of a lie being told in that face.

Although he didn't seem to be telling lies, the contents of his words were still unbelievable.

As my magic capacity was evaluated to be lacking by Khalil, there is no way for it to be close to 10 times that of an expert like Az.

As he considered it to be impossible, Renya didn't actually lie about it himself either. Furthermore, even this close to 10 times the numbers, still left him with a margin on the numbers of activation.

"What is this about...?" (Renya)

Due to still seeing Renya murmuring without comprehension, Az shook his head.

“It’s not like I understand it. Although you might usually suspect an error in the measurement, I don’t think that is possible if it was done by Khalil.” (Az)

The practice was an incredible success, going by such reasoning is likewise unlikely.

Just a moment ago I was told by Az that it wasn’t possible to increase it by practicing to such an extent either.

If I were to have an idea, I guess it couldn’t be helped to think that it was one of those many skills I received before coming to this world, Renya recalled.

As that little girl said, the abilities will be sure to grow in proportion to being forged by training.

Those are the fruits of training ~ while separating his face from Az, Renya could agree to such view. It wasn’t due to understanding it though.

“Although I don’t know why it has become like this, if we assume this to be a fact, you can expect it to cause nothing but trouble if the surroundings became aware of this.” (Az)

“Isn’t it already too late since you know about it?” (Renya)

“In my case... I don’t have the hobby of spreading rumors about someone else’s circumstances.” (Az)

Despite having an unsociable face, only one side of Az’s mouth moved slightly.

Somehow Renya realized that he was kind of smiling.

“I am thankful for that. I am grateful for the accompanying warning.” (Renya)

“There is no need for thanks... although I would be happy if you give me a slightly larger portion of pasta for lunch.” (Az)

“I will see to that.” (Renya)

Although he didn’t prepare such an extent of pasta in his [Inventory] due to Renya arranging the amount of pasta roughly referencing upon himself, since he knew that Shion and Rona wouldn’t eat more than he had assessed, he guessed there wouldn’t

be any difficulty to something like giving Az's party a larger portion. With acknowledging his words, Renya conveyed this meaning to Az.



"I'm bored..." (Shion)

Shion murmured lazily.

As the small information exchange due to the deal was completely finished, there was nothing to do afterwards.

Since neither Renya nor Az had any intention to dive into the dungeon until they finished eating lunch, naturally as there was nothing to do for the other members either it resulted in not being able to do anything but spending time on something like standby.

After Az finished the exchange with Renya, he reported the established deal to his party members. Retrieving a carpet from within his luggage, he sat down on it with a thump on top of holding some volume of a book and began to read silently.

Such a side of Az was something usual for the other members, huh? Without even particularly minding about something like this, each of them scattered to some suitable place around there in order to laze around and bask in the sun or to take a nap.

Speaking of Renya, since he exhausted the soup he had received from the inn yesterday, he began his work by placing the pot with the deep bottom on top of the cooking stove and throwing in vegetables and meat in there as it would take some time to boil them well while cooking on a low flame.

Although Renya intended to offer two types of sauces for lunch, one made out of cheese and milk and the other from the tomato-like vegetable, it was unthinkable for it to become satisfactory without something serving as a base for that.

Given that this didn't mean that there would be a large quantity necessary, he carefully and slowly cooked together the reasonable amount of ingredients. Occasionally Renya added water to finish concentrating it.

As the flavor of the finished concentrated base became strong, it ended up becoming

bland, or rather the flavor was rough.

The important difference could be determined by how well the good flavor of the vegetables and meat could be extracted. While persuading himself of that, Renya kept standing watch on the soup.

Rona, going with the flow, ended up taking this state of affairs completely for granted and retired into the tent because she wanted to sleep until she got called by his voice.

Although Shion watched Renya working for a while, she soon enough got tired of it in the end.

“I guess it’s inevitable, huh? I have ended up being in charge of lunch recently. Preparations are important for cooking.” (Renya)

“We... pretty much came here to capture the dungeon, right?” (Shion)

Then why is there a mood as if we were going for a picnic? Shion couldn’t help but feel such doubts.

Meanwhile Renya was scooping out the scum emerging on the surface of the pot.

“It isn’t a good thing to be tense when it is unnecessary, right?” (Renya)

“Aren’t we slacking off too much?” (Shion)

“Well, what do you think?” (Renya)

Renya thought that they might be a bit too carefree as well.

Nevertheless he had no intention on cutting corners in his duty of preparing lunch at all.

He peeled the skin of the tomato-like vegetables after boiling them. Combining it with the remade soup by putting it into the pot, this would transform into a paste. Furthermore he threw in similar pastes transformed from other vegetables in. They added an aroma of herbs and slightly increased the concentration by increasing the viscosity.

It was completed by seasoning it with a small quantity of salt and small pieces of meat.

As for the cheese and milk sauce, he mixed the soup with the milk and seasoned that with salt n' pepper. He heated it until it became thick by constantly tossing in pieces of cheese in there.

Finely cut small pieces of vegetables were put in next.

Since he obtained something of the sort of noodles as pasta, he put those into the deep pot alongside plenty of water. He took out the pasta after waiting for it to boil with irregular movements.

Although it was frequently said that you left it inside until the core part became one long hair before pulling it out, since Renya wasn't fond of such a method, he boiled them properly and then took them out.

Soon after putting the two types of sauces into their respective deep dishes, he placed the boiled pasta on a large plate and completed it by arranging individual plates.

All that was left was for each to pick up some pasta, pour it with their preferred sauce and eat it.

Because it was also a portion of pasta for 8 people all together, it was unthinkable to finish cooking it in one go.

While watching the pasta placed on the plate disappearing, he thought *Maa, it's fine since they are able to eat something delicious, no?* Renya was single-mindedly boiling pasta.

CHAPTER 27

IT SEEMS TO BE A CONSULTATION WHILE CLEANING

In the end the prepared pasta stock became less than half.

You could say this was something that couldn't be helped.

Since originally they prepared it to be used by a party of one man and two women, namely Renya, Shion and Rona, the quantity they took along was to satisfy just them.

Although Renya had also taken along a surplus considering some unforeseen situations occurring, adding 5 grown man to this was still harsh.

Rather, with adding this many, it is good that there is still close to half remaining, he thought bitterly.

Renya had a high opinion of himself.

I want to praise my former self, while thinking such trivial things, he used his hands to wash the tableware devoting himself completely to the task.

Without having to mention the dishes, as hygienic conditions couldn't be really mentioned to be well in this world, he couldn't leave the pot and kitchen knife without properly washing and suitably drying them either. Doing so could cause something like somache ache and in the end the ability to enjoy the meal would be lost.

The used tools were washed sufficiently and dried with a cleansed cloth.

This is already a matter of my previous life's common sense concerning someone who touches foodstuff, Renya judged.

While wiping the tableware with a clean cloth, he surveyed the surroundings. He could see them fully enjoying the early afternoon with full stomachs sitting directly on the ground with the only difference being the variation of spread out carpets they were using.

It was a really peaceful view.

Peaceful, even though it couldn't be helped to just call it peaceful, it was still a fact.

While helping to wipe the tableware next to Renya, Az seemed to likewise feel the same. He started a conversation with a low voice to the extent that it couldn't be heard by the surroundings.

"They haven't... returned." (Az)

That voice didn't contain anything like the feeling of anxiety.

It was no more than an indifferent way of confirming the truth.

"Ah, that's true." (Renya)

Without resting his hands on the task, Renya agreed.

A young dungeon didn't have a size to such an extent. Although he had heard that, Renya didn't concretely know just how big the size actually was.

But, with the ranks of the parties as it is, secluding themselves for a few hours without emerging in a dungeon said to not have such an extensive size, is that something ordinary?

Renya wasn't able to judge it.

In the first place, since there wasn't such things like dungeons in his previous world, it was just reasonable for him to not have the knowledge related to this.

How could it be fine to judge that without having the knowledge?

If it is something that you don't have, it will be a good idea to borrow it from someone who has it.

A pretty simple matter.

"Az, can you be my teacher? Please, there is something I absolutely want to ask..."
(Renya)

Although it certainly seemed as if he wanted to ask something, it could also really be called something close to getting free information about this place.

As Renya tried to act modestly as there was the possibility of him thinking like that for sure, Az's reaction was something completely unexpected.

"Stop it, it feels sickening. What will you do if I drop a plate due to that? Although it might be particularly good since it is yours." (Az)

While retreating half a step, Az raised his voice in protest expressing a truly unpleasant look on his expressionless face.

Tentatively Renya had intended to ask earnestly, but he also felt a slight satisfaction seeing such unusually reluctant facial expression on Az.

If the plate ended up being broken because of that, I wouldn't be able to bear it.

"What do you want to know? I will listen to you normally." (Az)

"Is it normal for 2 parties to not come out from diving into a small dungeon after a few hours?" (Renya)

Since he didn't know when Hartz' party entered the dungeon, he couldn't say anything concerning that. But if the discussion was restricted to only talking about Zest's party, they had dived into the dungeon for around 5 hours without any news.

Speaking of Renya's question, as Az answered right away, did he think about the same question?

"Although I can't say it's normal, I can't say it's abnormal either." (Az)

Finishing wiping the plate dry, after giving it to Renya, he picked up another plate that was still wet. While beginning the task of wiping it once more, Az replied.

As he was quite skilled with something like that, Renya could comply with Az being usually in charge of cleaning and cooking for the sake of the four on guard duty. His performance was quite agreeable.

"Though it may be a small dungeon, it isn't something unusual to spend time in it. Even if it doesn't mean that it is very strong, you can still randomly encounter such things

like a tough guardian.” (Az)

“I see?” (Renya)

“However, because we have manpower here, in such a situation it would also be normal to think of doing something like calling for reinforcements while some people hold it off.” (Az)

No matter how solid the defense power it possessed, assuming you beat it up with a large number of people, it would be an obvious matter of shortening the time needed to defeat it.

Even if they were determined to do it by themselves they were still undermanned. If they had reinforcements close by, they wouldn’t have a choice but to call them over.

“I see.” (Renya)

“Although that brown-dyed hair baka, who doesn’t happen to have any particularly noticeable intelligence, will very likely end up shedding tears, Hartz doesn’t seem to have realized that.” (Az)

“Inde... oi, don’t use such spiteful words.” (Renya)

Az ignored Renya, who had inserted a tsukkomi in his agreement, without even blinking.

“In conclusion, I think something has happened.” (Az)

Az held out the plate he finished to dry to Renya.

After taking it and confirming that the water had been properly wiped away, Renya tossed it into his [Inventory].

“I am deliberating what might have happened.” (Az)

“Both parties that went ahead have an evaluation to be higher ranked than us.” (Renya)

“Though I don’t think I can tell how far we can go, they will die without exception if we continue our picnic here without doing anything.” (Az)

“I dare say as for ingredients, we still have some leeway.” (Renya)

Renya spent almost all of the prior preparation time on securing ingredients.

Although the amount of money he possessed including the amount for selling of the magic cores was down to merely 3 gold coins, the reason for that happening could be attributed almost entirely to him buying ingredients, tools and materials.

The reason for the only meager remaining amount was it vanishing into such things such as ropes, tinderboxes and lanterns which he gave Rona, who was in charge of buying them.

“Our side as well. Even though I say that, we have nothing but hard bread and jerky stocked.” (Az)

Even though it was a talk about something having no taste, it was still something called essential for normal adventurers.

Due to equipment and tools being important, it could be said to be the obvious choice, even going as far as calling it rational, to prepare food that wasn’t bulky and heavy. Originally it would be strange to put importance on taste and bring something that didn’t last long on top of being unwieldy like fresh vegetables and milk like Renya did in this situation.

“And isn’t this a slightly bitter picnic, I wonder? Though it is also fine to receive and include our ingredients, there has to be an end to it.” (Az)

“Even though I want to do something to take care of it if possible, I have nothing to pay with anymore either. In other words.” (Renya)

“”There is nothing left but passing the bounds and get started on acting.”” (Az & Renya)

Sending out the same phrase at the same time, Renya and Az looked at each other faces.

Staring at each other for a short while, they averted their gazes from each other with the same timing again.

“I see, I see, I don’t dislike such things either.” (Renya)

“Although I thought you might be of the same type as that brown-haired baka, why, just why is it something good to be next to a fellow who properly understands matters?” (Az)

“Why are you are you thinking I am the same type like that?” (Renya)

“Though you have nothing but women in your party?” (Az)

Declaring it as if it was only natural, Renya smiled bitterly.

Even though I think there are various problems in a party made out of only women, if you also enter a single man in there, there will be some problems left after all, he thought.

While that may be true, with Rona strongly opposing the idea of adding other male members, it seems that it will be very difficult to realize this.

“We should decide on the objective of action. It isn’t my hobby to blindly charge into something.” (Az)

“Internal investigation and confirming the preceding parties. The conditions for retreating are...” (Renya)

“In case of discovering something considered to make the well being of the preceding parties hopeless or encountering the cause of that one way or another, it is.” (Az)

At the same time Az finished saying this, he handed the last plate that had to be wiped to Renya.

Renya checked the state of that plate.

The water was completely wiped off.

He admired the truly good work.

“Well then, maa, let’s get started, huh? The higher ranking parties have been completely annihilated ~ saying that, would it be sufficient reason to abandon the request?” (Renya)

Without moving his mouth, as if telling Renya that it was fine in that case, Az showed

a nod.

“Ah, somehow saying this is similar to giving an order to stop it.” (Az)

“Well, then it is decided. Shion! Rona!” (Renya)

Having their names called out and having the cloth spread on the ground under them pulled away, the two, who had been sleeping with a *suya suya*, quickly got up halfway.

As if wanting to be praised for their quickness in reacting like this, their ears stood on end with a twitch due to having their names called in an appearance that could be described as cats. It was such a scene.

“Get prepared, we are entering the dungeon.” (Renya)

“You guys, start preparing as well. We will enter the dungeon forming a common front with Renya’s group’s party.” (Az)

With Az’s issued instruction, his members started to get armed.

The equipment of them, who were entrusted to serve as shields, were plate mail and a massive shield.

Although it was extremely heavy equipment, what caught Renya’s eyes was their weapons.

All of them wore a short small sword that was easy to swing in one’s hands.

“Are you surprised?” (Az)

Did he notice the item which stopped Renya’s eyes? Az asked a question.

Renya, who had checked those small swords for a while, shook his head left and right before long.

“You have considered it well.” (Renya)

He understood that far from causing a fatal injury it would be difficult even give damage by cutting with a long sword against a sturdily made plate armor.

An attack like chopping through man and armor altogether in one swing wasn't possible except within novels or mangas.

Usually, if you were to encounter a warrior equipped in plate armor, there was no other method other than either causing him to faint due to the attacks and then finish him off or aim at the gaps in the armor.

The opponents are restrained with the individual defense power of those four and by easily passing this small sword around, someone can stab the enemy. That is likely the division of roles while fighting, Renya conjectured.

Because all four function well as defense, Az can focus on attacking with magic.

"We aren't something like knights. Thus we don't fuss over the methods of fighting. Some restrain the enemy and some diminish the numbers of enemies. If you are properly able to do this, there won't be any kind of problems." (Az)

Although Rona frowned slightly as the talks turned to knights and so on at this point, Az didn't become aware of it.

"Renya, the preparations are complete." (Shion)

Shion called out.

She wore a steel breastplate and a forehead protector (*T/N: like the ones in Naruto*) additionally to her usual miko clothes type of old ceremonial costume.

The outfit was complimented with steel reinforced leather tekkou's* and boots with steel inlets. Renya ended up suspecting whether she wasn't somehow even a much more Japanese person than him with her truly Japanese style.

Rona, whose armaments he had seen in the carriage already, stood next to her.

Both of them carried a small backpack on their back.

The contents were such things as medicines, bandages, a water-filled canteen and portable food.

Although it wasn't really needed considering that Renya was there, it didn't mean that they might not fall into an unforeseeable situation ending up being separated from

each other.

If they were to only count on Renya's void storage, they would be in real trouble at the time he couldn't use his hands and feet.

After looking at them, Renya took out his equipment from the [Inventory].

It was something simple that was sold in stores, leather and copper armor with tekkous.

Since it would only obstruct his field of view, he didn't feel inclined to wear something like a helmet.

Even though he put on boots as footwear, those were something common without having a reinforcement with something like iron differing from the boots Shion and Rona were wearing.

Only on the shoe sole there was an iron plate inserted to prevent treading something into the sole of his feet.

As a weapon he had the katana he exchanged with Kirie.

When he took that out from his [Inventory] the looks from the surroundings gathered on it.

"What to say? This shape of weapon, I have never seen it before." (Az)

"Isn't the sword blade too thin? Although it has a beautiful shape ..." (Shion)

Az and Shion each expressed their opinions.

While thinking something along the lines of *Is that how it appears to you?*, Renya coiled the belt he had procured before leaving the city around his waist and hung the katana there.

He tied the scabbard to the belt with metal fittings. The construction was such that he could disconnect the scabbard from the belt with a strong snap from his fingers at the attached clasp protuberance in times of need.

Although Renya thought that there likely weren't such things as inserted gimmicks for

the different types of weapons circulating in this world, he was able to find it surprisingly easily in a regular store.

He heard that in cases such as falling into water while having weapons equipped, there was a necessity to immediately remove them from the clothing.

In preparation for such times, it appears that the sword belts being circulated possessed such a mechanism.

Even though the purpose was different, Renya immediately bought it since its efficiency was plenty sufficient in practical use.

Because it was after purchasing the ingredients, he ended up having to secretly borrow money from Rona as his own capital wasn't enough.

"What will we do about the carriages?" (Renya)

"There shouldn't be any monsters who attack horses if it's this area. It will be fine to leave them as they are tied to the stakes. If we return within roughly 2-3 hours, it will be alright." (Az)

"Is that so? Well then, is everyone done preparing?" (Renya)

As Renya called out to them, each of them nodded.

Seeing Az's party members nodding, Renya turned around into the direction of Az.

There Az nodded as well.

"Oi?" (Renya)

"In this case it goes without saying that you as a swordsman is much more suited as leader than me as a magician." (Az)

"Why?" (Renya)

"Since there is no point in telling you, I won't tell you." (Az)

Az threw out his chest challenging him as to whether he had any complaints.

Is it fine to take this as proof of trust? Or is it fine to take this as forcing a role onto me including all the troubles along with it?

Thinking about it in a positive way that it would make everyone happy, Renya took a single breath and said,

“I understand. I will give the instructions. Please tell me at any time you don’t want to follow them.” (Renya)

“Understood, is that fine with you guys as well?” (Az)

Az confirmed it with all his party’s members,

It didn’t seem that they were dissatisfied either. With the same timing four full faced steel helmets nodded vertically.

“Good, then prepare the lights... let’s go.” (Renya)

He didn’t leak his inner feelings whether it was fine to leave the leadership to someone who was traversing a dungeon for the first time in this and the previous life. While dedicating himself to be seen as confident as possible, Renya gave the command to his seven companions.

CHAPTER 27.5

IT SEEMS TO BE INTERLUDE 5 (MTL)

traitorAIZEN: This is a machine translation. For reason I don't know, the translator didn't translate this chapter eventhough an illustration is included here.

"Mainly! It's a Mission Prison!"

A voice that made some stupid fool out for some reason, I decided to use my working head to turn my attention to my surroundings.

A black twin tailed daughter of a black twin tears jumps with a bamboo sword in his hand, but the left and right tails shaking each time it goes up and down are somewhat irksome.

"Who are you?"

"Lord! Giliel, Giliel!"

"Hmm?"

Take a memory thread to a girl who opens his eyes open and raises protest voice.

Somehow, there seems to be no memory like a one who created such an angel with such name, but did not create it like it was created.

"Do not forget, it is Giliel who was appointed as a guardian angel of Renya! Do not forget that such a young girl's shape, blurring like an elderly in the head can not be saved!"

"Who is a blurry old man?"

If you scoff and lighten your strength, the figure will blow away far away leaving a short scream.



It is an angel who has power so much in any mind, that.

Although it is said that I planned to erase it, its existence remains firmly.

No, I did not do it at the moment.

I was grasping the information that an idiot administrator, as if being alive, transferred the original human being into an indefinite form of mucilago and sent it to another world.

What on earth are we going to do with that kind of pleasant..... I wish to see the smallest units of constituent substances in their heads to see if they can do the original inhumane tasks.

Generally speaking, human beings are functioning properly as self as they have a human form, with greater or lesser difference.

If you turn this into a small demon of that neighborhood or a devil devoid, for example, it is still at a level barely understood, but you can understand.

At least it can not be said that they are also shaping people.

Dragons and that neighborhood are also safe.

The shape is different, head, neck, torso, legs, there are things like hands.

Roughly speaking roughly, there is no need to say that they have the same composition.

However, mucous organisms.

This is no good.

It is completely different from the form of sensory organ.

Human beings touch the feelings of the surroundings with the skin, eyes, ears, nose, mouth, etc, but as mucilago, the whole body can be said to be a so-called sensory instrument.

If you say in humans it is like feeling the smell with eyes or tasting things with your nose.

Furthermore, there are not any hands or feet in mucilage organisms.

Although it may be a bit strange.

There is a world that is researching to extract only brains from people, putting this in the body of a machine, and trying to obtain a long life expectancy when it comes to a world where science is a bit advanced , Almost failed.

There are various theories, but in reality the human spirit can not recognize the machine as his body, it is because of the collapse.

It is a substitute signal of the internal organs and it is not what the level is like.

If we apply this to mucinous organisms, there is no internal organs in this organism.

It is an organism which predators throughout the body, chews in the whole body and digests the whole body.

Naturally, the spirit of a human being bumped into such a thing does not know whether it is gentle or immediate, but surely collapses.

It was supposed to collapse..... Does not this strange stick?

Originally it was a person who was not concerned with what you say yourself, or was you eating into a self-fading or was it a human being who repeatedly sleeps and has lived a life that is not changed like a mucous creature?

I mean, I'm starting to acclimatize to a certain extent... Oh, it is no use after all.

It seemed that it was established as an ego once for a short time, but it has begun to break down in the spirit.

Even though it should be a former human being, no time hesitant to eat the same human being, he has already formed a special grade dangerous creature.

Although I do not know anything, it seems that they are all women eating..... Because they are the same protein anyway, there is no difference between men and women in taste, that.

There are clauses that recognize mucous creatures as names because most

administrators recognize it as a good creatures anyway, but thanks to that there is no wisdom, it is somehow related to the existence of the world It is an irregular existence that is done without it.

Even though I think about it, I want it.

Eat and instinct have little possession, eat food which is mechanically close, divide and increase number as volume increases.

Even in a poor environment, not only do you survive so much and you do not know if there is a concept of lifetime or not.

..... Have you set that up?

It is a bit long ago, so I have forgotten the sign... Oh, it's troublesome to look it up, so I will leave it.

Why do you think about what it is all about if human beings are addicted to such things, even though they say they are somewhat broken.

According to the worst, self-preservation and self-prosperity instincts, eating and increasing repeatedly, the world is covered with mucous creatures.

Actually, doing something similar in the past, one world has been destroyed.

So, you should have ordered me to not do it absolutely, but I do not remember coins thousands of years ago.....

I could not keep it and grew to make drinking a country I thought that it would be incinerated properly, and the administrator who did it thrust down into the world full of muciful organisms that had been destroyed before.

No, I thought that I could use it for something, I did not abandon it.

Even though it is said that the world is covered with mucus, each other hits each other, decreasing, repeating the increase repeatedly, so there is no time to maintain.

Although it is a stupid administrator, it is an administrator for the time being.

It will not die even if mucus is licked every corner of the body.

After several hundred years, if you remember, I will rescue you.

"Lord! Will you kill me !?"

I do not know how far he has been flying, but finally a black hair twin tail came back while shrinking the clothes around.

I finished my work, I greeted with a clear smile.

"Welcome back!"

"It is not a welcome! It is dangerous to cross the dimension wall and have fallen into a place I do not know!"

"It is not a place I do not know, there is no emptiness in free, and it disappears when it fell"

"Please do not say horrible things!"

"Oh well, why, who am I?"

"I guess you're Girel! Wow!"

I feel like I've heard familiarly in the name Gillier.

Um... sure.

"Girel who was appointed as a guardian angel of Mr. Renya who was reincarnated with resources in a world where resources were insufficient thanks to a stupid administrator selected by you!

"Oh, it's hard to explain"

In that way I recall that it was.

That world is a world that is going so well, so it is unnecessary to collapse.

It is hard for me to take care of humans, so I keep sending contacts to the administrator over there as insistent as stalker damage.

Since it is contact from the top rank, it can not refuse to receive it like an administrator.

Even though the reply does not come back, it is good that the body and mind are exhausted in the complaint mail that is sent all by himself.

"So, what is a mission?"

"Successfully collected Renaya's bamboo sword"

"Oh, you tired, so you gave me a substitute?"

"Yes, it's a Japanese sword!"

"Tachibana sword?"

"Ha?"

I saw that Girel 's face, which was proud of himself, got squashed, and I sighed.

"The use is completely different between a sword and a sword, which did you pass?"

"Er.....?"

While I can swim our eyes, I do not know what to answer, but while watching Girel who starts to cold sweat, I think that harassment is good with this kind of thing.

"Find out about the difference yourself..... where did you procure a sword?"

"I was disrespected from the relics held in the tomb of Renya in the former world"

I thought that it would be a tomb thief fuss in the original world, but leave it as good as there is no problem even if it is different.

"Well, it is from a relic..... It's a nice choice inside"

"Well, Rinya-san would be an item with an affair"

What we call connected goods is not only ease of use, but also sometimes gives the owner various benefits.

In that sense, Gyriel's choice is good, as we are going to set aside whether the act of revealing the tomb is to be done.

"This is a solution for visual problems!"

"As with anything visual, it might be lucky to have given you a proper weapon."

I thought that visual things seemed to be what I was saying, but another problem has arisen than that, I deeply breathe out.

A rescue request from an administrator who dropped into the mucus hell at one corner of the head was consecutively called, but ignored this firmly.

Blond hair Busty angel 's mucic insults are no different even if I look at it.....

I am glad there is nothing, but if you leave it in the picture, it might be possible to sell it.

Quickly, preserving the image with the method that can be thought of, angle.....

"My lord?"

"Oh, a little, no, it's a bit strange movement in the world that sent Renya."

"Is it a movement?"

"Oh... something..... the managers are....."

It is normal driving that keeps ignoring contact from me.

Other than that, I had noticed somewhat strange movements.

"Of the five administrators, it seems that four people began to strengthen the interference with the tribes they are in charge of,"

"What is left alone?"

"A person in charge of a human being, but that co is always in a position to be poverty-stricken"

"Why is it that the Lord put on the characteristics of bad luck?"

I tried to rephrase who made such a bother to make it adhere to the administrator of the world but thinking from the usual actions of the Lord, if I was told that my daily work is bad, I feel like I lost I will wait until I see you.

"Human beings are estrus during the year, so they will increase much more,"

There are fears that the other four powers will be extinct as they are if they do not do well as they are few.

In that respect, the people tend to survive quite a few surprisingly and increase at a reasonable rate, so it is often chosen as the initial victim of the campaign battle of that manager.

And it seems that this time somehow, it seems that smells started to smell.

"It's not something you've accumulated for the parties,"

"Mr. Renaya may be in danger, I can not get in this way"

I pressed the bamboo sword I brought, and Giliel returned the heel.

"Remember the guardian angel's job!"

"Yes, I will do my best"

I sent a cheering cheek at the back as I flew away.

Rosaya who gave resources has problems if it does not live long, but I think if it leaves that area to that cook, it will be a terrible thing.

Although I just got a name, I got some strength, and the authority is actually adding things of the same administrator of that world.

I have not told him.

I confirm the bamboo sword at first.

The irrefutable property was properly disappeared.

It seems to have moved it properly to the sword you passed.

One sword of artifacts, a weapon boasting unrivaled performance as an item, is it possible to cross that world that is starting to show great movements with only one?

"Why are all worries and jobs going to increase?"

It was a young girl who swore to the heart firmly if he gave me the appropriate rice for that creature, to increase the amount of mucus, to the mucus hell who had dropped an administrator earlier for stress dissipation.

However, I have not noticed that the act itself is increasing one's work by itself.

CHAPTER 28

IT SEEMS TO BE THE FIRST DUNGEON, BUT IT IS STRANGE SOMEHOW

Sa~ We entered the dungeon.

Even if you end up describing it in a single word dungeon, people have various images in relation to that word within their minds. You can't say there is something like a rule set what to imagine, Renya thought.

However, I somehow think they should have an image of it mostly having naked rock surfaces, mud walls, things that resemble a human's hand and formed pathways made out of stone blocks.

That was until I heard a single expression by chance.

Grown living type dungeon.

Renya wasn't able to imagine it.

In the first place a dungeon shouldn't be something living, but saying it grows in depth and width with the passing of months and years? I wonder what the heck is this phenomenon about?

At the very least it isn't a phenomenon happening to an inorganic stone wall.

Therefore, until Renya dived into this dungeon, he pondered whether the interior would be similar to the intestines of a living creature.

If that was the case, his disgust gauge would sky-rocket, but at least he would also somehow understand why it was called living type. However, as he currently tried diving into it, his anticipations were easily betrayed.

Also there was this again, the descending stairway. He didn't grasp why it was there to begin with. As Renya went down and stood inside the dungeon and surveyed the situation of his vicinity, he muttered disappointedly,

“Somehow it is a normal hole.” (Renya)

The wall seemed to be a bare mud wall, but it felt strangely solid upon touching.

The surface appeared to be covered with something. Even as he tried out striking it with his fist, it didn’t crumble or change its shape.

Measuring it by eye, the normal hole’s size was around 3 meters in length and width.

That was the range the torch light could cover. But the room spread out much further ahead.

“What did you expect?” (Shion)

Shion asked besides Renya.

Having formed an united front with Az’s group in these circumstances, Renya assigned the increased group of 8 people into 2 as vanguards, 3 as middle guards and 3 as rear guard.

Of course Renya said right away that he would stand as vanguard and announced Shion becoming the second person. This was immediately accepted.

The middle guard had Rona, being in charge of healing, and Az, being in charge of firepower, along one guard.

The remaining guards acted as rear guard.

While starting to walk, Renya gathered the words to explain what he expected.

“No, since you said it is a living-type dungeon, I thought it would be a sort of living creature or something like that...” (Renya)

“Who would consider to dive into that kind of a dungeon... ?” (Shion)

Seeing Shion’s face twitching in displeasure, Renya thought *That is certainly right.*

No matter how profitable it might be, there wouldn’t be many willing to pass through passages resembling the intestines of a living creature. Those going to dive into such a thing could only be called having a strange taste.

“The passages are created by portions of them crumbling little by little.” (Az)

Az cut into the discussion of the two from the back.

“It isn’t like there is someone digging the tunnels, but little by little the passages are extending. By being able to make branches of those passages the dungeon is capable to grow into a huge structure. If the passage gets too big, it turns into a room. The treasures are placed in there then.” (Az)

“Who puts such things there?” (Renya)

“There are various theories. There are some saying that the monsters put them there while there are others advocating that the core has some kind of method in its deposition. Or it can be said that both options are possible?” (Az)

If you look at it from the dungeon’s side, it will also be troubled by being limitlessly, indiscriminately plundered. But in reverse it will also be a problem if no one comes visiting. Controlling this situation, you can definitely say that the core has an intention, no?

“Az-sensei is quite well-informed.” (Renya)

Looking back over his shoulder, Renya says, in order to tease him. Az glared at Renya with a grim face.

“Though I also think it is nice to chat, don’t forget to keep attention to the surroundings. This isn’t a party of thieves.” (Az)

“Yeah, yeah...” (Renya)

Renya returns his line of sight to the front.

Az exhaled with a face that said “Yare yare.”

Actually Az and Renya are expecting that it won’t become a situation where they need a thief.

One thing is that the dungeon, they are passing through, is young.

And the other thing is that the two parties, which went ahead, have passed through it

as well.

Whether the thieves, who passed through here before, have planted traps on the main pathway or not is something they are investigating while they advance. But if there are traps, whether the leading groups neutralized them or didn't notice them as they weren't caught in them, either option has a high probability.

"Isn't it weird for grown dungeon passages to have traps?" (Renya)

"I don't know that, you have to ask the core about it." (Az)

Az seems to want to say that it can't be helped since the traps are there.

It is indispensable to understand that this is something like theory turning into reality.

"Both of you, something resembling a room can be seen ahead." (Rona)

Due to Rona's voice, the mood becomes tense.

Quickly switching over, as you would expect from people working as adventurers, I suppose, Renya is the only person care-freely concerned about such things, but his left hand warily reached out to his katana.

"Room?" (Renya)

"If the passage becomes wide, it turns into a room? There is no door though." (Shion)

The one who answered is Shion.

"... although there isn't a presence of living things?" (Renya)

"You know?" (Shion)

"Vaguely, yeah." (Renya)

The passage abruptly became wide and an open space appeared.

The two vanguards cautiously enter and survey the vicinity attentively.

Although Shion has her weapon already taken out, Renya hasn't drawn his katana.

The reason for that can be explained that the action of drawing itself is connected to an attack. A katana is something to be drawn for the sake of killing. His intuition tells him that it isn't something you swing around while walking. He has such feeling stored somewhere within his mind.

"There is no one here?" (Shion)

Shion's voice sounds as if she is confirming that.

While replying with a nod, Renya, looking at a point on the floor, discovered something like a stain.

As the light of the torch is swaying, he can't accurately see the surface of the floor.

If he brings the fire closer, its composition might change due to the heat as well.

I see, I have practised the spell <Light> for such occasions, while comprehending that, Renya cast the spell close to that stain.

"What is it?" (Az)

Az noticed that that light was suddenly emitted from the air close to the floor. The stain below that became visible.

Even though the ground of the floor was bare, that part of the floor obviously had an unusual color.

"Though it has become considerable pale, it is blood, no?" (Renya)

"Probably. Someone was injured here ... or a monster was defeated here, right?" (Az)

Even if you say the stain became pale, it reached a span of around the length of stretching both arms.

In that case to produce such a size of a stain, the degree of bleeding...

"I think, if it's an injury, it is a dangerous amount of blood." (Renya)

"Since the dungeon has ended up absorbing the majority, we don't know whether it is a person or a monster." (Az)

Realizing that he heard somehow disturbing words, Renya ends up staring at Az's face. But Az was making an unconcerned face as he said this.

"Is it the first time that you see this?" (Az)

"Ah, will absorbing it in this way turn into growth strength...?" (Renya)

"That's right. With the passage of time blood and corpses will vanish." (Az)

Although he heard such story, the received impact is really different when you actually witness it.

Once again I realize that I came to a completely different place than my original world, Renya thought. But the other members seem to have perceived this shock in a different meaning.

"Renya, should we return temporarily?" (Shion)

Shion calls out to him in a voice filled with worry.

Without even having a slight trembling as she stared at the stain on the floor, she placed her hand on Renya's shoulder.

"Now that I think about it, it is Renya's first time experiencing this. It is inevitable that you are receiving a shock. We can return once and come back tomorrow to try again as well..." (Shion)

"Nn? Ah, I am alright. I was only surprised. I haven't particularly received a shock." (Renya)

Hitting Shion's shoulder with a *pon pon*, he is appealing to the other members, who are watching his state carefully, by lightly laughing showing his lack of concern over this matter.

While appealing, because he is the leader, he changes the atmosphere in the party by timing and his facial expression. Though he is thinking that this is also quite difficult.

"Is that so? It's fine if you are alright, but please tell me if there is anything." (Shion)

"I am happy about you worrying about me, Shion. But I am fine." (Renya)

Renya says while keeping his tone of voice as kind as possible. Did Shion understand it at last? Separating her hand somewhat reluctantly from Renya's shoulder, she once again begins to watch the surroundings having her weapon prepared.

They don't understand whether it was a monster or a human on the floor, but because of the matter of there being a blood-like stain there, Renya's group knew that something had happened at this place.

And they also perceived that this conjecture was connected with a battle most likely.

"There is something here after all." (Renya)

"That's only natural, this is a dungeon." (Az)

As if saying "What are you talking about at this late point in time?" Az returns a wry smile.

"For now let's go ahead, ok? Only this much is a weak reason for making an escape, right?" (Az)

"It should be okay, if the corpse has already disappeared into the ground." (Renya)

Az and Renya didn't plan to capture the entire dungeon any more.

However, they didn't think that for the completion of the request it would be reasonable to just report this fact or that only this level of evidence would be enough.

"It is the first time for me to travelling a dungeon this half-heartedly..." (Shion)

Although Shion raises her voice as if feeling worn-out for some reason, there was no reply from the other party members except bitter smiles.

Everyone should be aware of the strength of the parties that went ahead. They fully knew that it was a situation about which they couldn't do anything if those parties don't return in the end.

"Renya" (Az)

Holding a torch, Az, standing in the vicinity of the only exit of this room, addressed Renya.

“Beyond this point... there is a door.” (Az)

“Ha?” (Renya)

"If you leave this room, there is a door right away." (Az)

Being beckoned to come to Az's side, looking in the direction Az's finger pointed, past the the exit of the room, where Renya's group is in, there was a short passage. As it was a distance the light of the torch, standing at the exit, barely reached, a dull grey door was visible.

With a size of the entire passage being around 3 meters in length and width, although there was a door, being the type of double door which opens from the middle, it was somewhat strange.

“Hey, is it normal for a young dungeon to have such splendid door installed?” (Renya)

“If it’s a grown dungeon, there will be such installations made by monsters, but... With the youth of this dungeon, it is impossible. In the first place, the path we took was direct and unforked, right? The room, we are currently in, is the first one. For such dungeon to have such door for its second room, that’s plainly odd.” (Az)

“Do the leading parties have this information as well?” (Renya)

“I have no doubt that Hartz’ party knows about it... I don’t care about dyed-brown-hairs party.” (Az)

Az's reaction was such that Renya wanted to ask whether he had any very bad memories with harem parties, but now wasn't the time for that.

Gathering everyone at the side of the room's entrance, Renya stated clearly,

“Let’s go back.” (Renya)

""""""""Eh?"""""""" (The others)

Excluding Renya, all present reacted like that.

Without caring about it, Renya continues.

“This is dangerous. There is definitely something here. Leaving this room, there is a door right away, but no matter how you think about it, it is risky to open that door. My intuition is telling me this.” (Renya)

Having the skill to sense danger, Renya isn’t able to do anything about it any more, even if he regrets to have obtained it. It didn’t seem that there was someone amongst this party who had such ability though.

“It’s a point I want to agree with, but...” (Az)

Az says while collecting his thoughts.

“I also consider this to be strange. But we won’t be able to explain adequately to the guild why we returned after having reached the door.” (Az)

“Hasn’t it also the possibility of being a death trap as soon as you open it?” (Renya)

“It is strange that there is such door, but it would be even weirder if there was such a trap.” (Az)

“Renya, there won’t even be any meaning in accepting the request, if we return because it was suspicious without investigating anything. Even the guild won’t be able to do anything but inflict a heavy penalty upon us.” (Shion)

Due to Az’s and Shion’s words, Renya ends up pondering about it.

I wonder if this is the difference of not having self-awareness of being an adventurer from this area?

Of course Renya is considering that he has no self-consciousness about being an adventurer himself.

For this reason, he has only considered the matter with the guild as “It’s fine either way.” Feeling a danger beyond expectation currently, he chose to withdraw without hesitation.

But it appears as if that is a difficult suggestion for Az and Shion, who seem to have self-awareness as adventurers, to accept.

“I have a hunch that it will be our end, if we open that door, you know... ?” (Renya)

“If that’s the case, let’s do it like this, Renya.” (Az)

Az, probably unable to watch the indecisive Renya, made a single suggestion.

“What do you say about all of us being the vanguards and Renya’s group being responsible of backing us up?” (Az)

“No, that is...” (Renya)

“No matter what Renya says, we will try to open that door. Going back without doing this, we won’t be able to return to our occupation as adventurers. If Renya refuses to act as backup, we will continue to investigate by only ourselves.” (Az)

“Nuu...” (Renya)

“Renya. You are our leader, so we will follow your decision. But if that means to abandon Az’s group here and turn back... I don’t think that would be a very admirable deed.” (Shion)

“Guu...” (Renya)

Renya had no words in return.

Certainly, getting results from the job, we took up, will become our first assessment in itself. Currently I am doing nothing but insisting on abandoning that.

But my feeling also definitely tells me that there is danger lurking beyond that door.

Even though he is understanding that, because Az’s party will be going first, Renya didn’t seem to be able to accept having an acquaintance storming into a place he feels to be dangerous.

“Understood. Let’s advance ahead.” (Renya)

In the end there is no other option but to go forward seeing that he has no arguments to persuade the members otherwise.

Having judged like this, Renya sighed dropping his shoulders.

“However, I will be the only one to open that door. Shion and Rona will guard Az. The

remaining four will take care of guarding our rear.” (Renya)

“Renya?!” (Shion)

As Shion raised a scream holding him back with her hands, Renya laughed feebly.

“I still think that we shouldn’t proceed past this point. Although I am thinking that, seeing that I won’t be able to persuade you guys, there is no other way. If that’s the case, I will examine whether it is dangerous to open it. There is no other method to chose except this one.” (Renya)

“Renya, I already told you that we would be the vanguard...” (Az)

“That’s not allowed.” (Renya)

Renya rejects Az’s suggestion.

“I am thinking that beyond that door a danger is lurking making it a matter of life and death. Though I am judging so, I can’t tell you guys to not go there. Therefore it will be me who will enter that place. If you can’t accept this, I want you to approve of going back.” (Renya)

Telling them straight out that he won’t yield on this point, Renya is waiting for the reply of the party members.

CHAPTER 29

IT SEEMS TO BE AN ENCOUNTER

The discussion became complicated.

Although Renya isn't willing to withdraw from his statement that if someone has to go then it will be him to do so, Az and Shion are finding it difficult to accept Renya going ahead by himself. All of them are talking at the same time in this heated debate.

As far as it goes, Az's final measure is to cancel the current state of having a joint operation with Renya's party. Even though he had reserved this method for only when his own party forced him to do so, without being able to say that Renya will step back at the present state and since even Shion and Rona weren't rejecting the situation in order to back him up, it became a state where he strongly desired to leave himself.

Besides, there isn't any particular reason for Az to start a quarrel with Renya either.

On the contrary, he is judging that he wanted to keep a favorable relation with Renya if possible.

Or perhaps you should say that this was heavily influenced by the handiness of Renya's void storage skill. Or rather, it was the effect of some kind of stubbornness regarding Renya's meals. Or, frankly speaking, it was Renya's iron hold on Az's stomach in the end.

Anyway, although he wants to avoid a deterioration of their relationship, there is no way for him to approve of what Renya says on the other hand either. And a possible compromise also isn't apparent.

"Well, let's accept Renya going ahead for the time being." (Az)

"Thinking that it's someone else's party, what is this sly magician there saying?!" (Shion)

Renya was surprised when Shion changed her way of talking while raising her voice wondering whether she was just about to blow her top.

It isn't her usual military-like kind of speech pattern. It was the speech pattern appropriate for a girl of her age.

"Shion, watch your language..." (Rona)

She whispers into Shion's ear while restraining her mouth with a sidelong glance. Az cocked his head in puzzlement questioning whether he really appeared to be this sly.

The look of his eyes is evil. His face has become too skinny. And being weak at laughing, he doesn't show it on his face very much either.

After agreeing that it indeed can't be helped to even be called sly, Az continues his speech.

"But, I can't accept letting him go by himself after all. How about the two ojou-san's over there, me and you, the four of us, act as vanguard while the four remaining members of my party will be our rearguard?" (Az)

"T-That's right, Renya. If that's the case, we will also be able to follow once Renya says that we can enter without having to be worried about our rear." (Shion)

The flustered Shion supported Az's suggestion.

Renya didn't assess the proposal of splitting the party in two to be an overly good idea, but he thought that it wouldn't be settled by grumbling over it any longer either.

Furthermore, because this all came to be due to a single worry of Renya, it has become the cause of rushing the conclusion. Rona seems to have noticed that as well.

"However, just make sure to cast defense magic before breaking into the room. But... since no one has come out from the room after us having made such a tumult in front of the door, isn't it possible that there isn't anyone on the other side of the door, I wonder?" (Rona)

There were two possibilities.

In spite of comprehending it, Renya raised a smile due to Rona choosing the optimistic option amongst the two possibilities on purpose.

"If there is really nothing on the other side of the door, it will be good as it will be a

funny story of a scared, weakling leader making a racket.” (Renya)

Although Renya said this, if the other suspected possibility becomes reality, any reason for laughter will vanish.

That is, even though there might be something on the other side of the door, it was a powerful existence to the degree of not paying attention to something like the actions on this side.

It doesn't care what kind of preparation Renya's group does.

It's completely fine to run away, if you want to run away.

It is something this strong that it doesn't even demonstrate at least this much interest.

As for that possibility, it appears that Rona has noticed it as well, but she doesn't let it show. She is going around casting magic on each party member in turns.

“Thought it's only to the extent of <Defense> and <Increase Recovery Rate>...” (Rona)

“That's plenty. I will open the door. Rear guards, pay attention to the back.” (Renya)

Seeing everyone nodding, Renya pushes the door with both hands.

Although he is thinking that they can turn back if it doesn't open due to being locked for an instant while putting strength into his arms, the door slowly begins to open.

“Uh?!”

Someone unintentionally raised their voice like this.

A strong rotten smell drifted out from within the gap of the slightly opened door.

Renya, having both his hands on the door, ends up receiving a full dose of a stinking, strangely sickening stench as he isn't able to cover his mouth and nose.

Shion's group, being close to the entrance, reflexively covered their mouths and noses with their available hands.

Even the guards further back from the entrance raise a groan, as Renya throws the

door open without minding them.

Although they are surprised themselves, the other members instinctively cover their mouths and noses and end up stopping advancing their feet due to the force of the rotten smell. And yet, despite understanding them, Renya didn't care about that himself.

I guess I have become used to this?

While feeling such doubts, Renya passes through the opened door.

Following him by being one step late, Shion hoists up the torch while Rona and Az stepped inside.

There was a quite large room boasting a lot of space in comparison to the previous single room.

First off, it is bright.

Most likely, if it was only the light of the torch, they wouldn't be able to comprehend the largeness of the room's grade of extent, but the ceiling itself is casting a faint light. That itself is filling the entire room with luminance.

The surrounding wall differs to the mud wall up until now. It is a pure white wall as if plastered with mortar.

As for the center of the space, there is a single ebony desk set up there as if somehow trying to be funny. The figure of someone writing something with all their might can be seen sitting on a chair.

At a glance, they can't find the thing giving off the rotten smell they sensed at the time they opened the door.

But, at this point of time Renya vigilance level rose to the maximum.

There is an air of intimidation originating from the figure writing something in the center of the room.

Warily Renya is clasping the scabbard with his left hand dampened with sweat.

“Who is it... ?” (Az)

That sense of intimidation likely reached Az’s group in Renya’s back.

As Az asks in a hoarse voice, the thing, shaped in the form of a person, stops its writing. Slowly raising its view from the surface of the desk, it turns its sight to Renya’s group standing rock still at the entrance of the room.

By Renya’s judgement it was an odd-looking man.

The light purple hair is tidily combed down on the back. The ears are slightly pointed and long.

The skin’s color is a deep dark brown.

The eyes facing towards Renya’s group, different from other people, have pupils with an almond shape.

With clothes resembling a white robe coiling itself around the body, the already questionable impression of that man is turning even more suspicious.

“Oya oya. Today’s a day with many visitors. I don’t remember having invited anyone though.”



Inclining his head slightly, the voice the man used was somehow quite hard on the ears due to its high pitch.

Rona spoke up as if struggling as she looked at that face directly from the front.

“That is... a devil...” (Rona)

“Devil?” (Renya)

Of course it is a race Renya sees for the first time.

Although he had heard from that little girl about the races inhabiting the center of the continent before coming to this world, he got excited about the question why that devil was on the human race’s continent and even more so within a dungeon.

“Renya, you were right. This fellow is definitely bad news. We won’t be able to escape.” (Az)

Even Az’s voice, lacking the usual calmness, is filled with nothing but impatience.

The only person, not understanding the tricky situation, is only Shion, but seeing the panicked state of the two, although she doesn’t know what is happening, she sets up the sword while her sight is wandering forth and back between the devil and Renya.

“It’s fine for you to not leave this quickly, don’t you agree?” (Devil)

His voice contained ridicule.

Even though his way of talking and his facial expression are tender and intimate, the emotions held within them are something completely polar to those, Renya is sensing.

It’s a feeling totally unsuited for a person.

“As for me, it’s a feeling of wanting to run away after only hearing the things I want to ask.” (Az)

“Hou? I wonder what you want to know? For the time being, let’s hear about it.” (Devil)

“Did a group of around two sets of adventurers come here previously?” (Az)

“Adventurers? Did someone like that come here, I wonder?” (Devil)

The male devil folds his arms in front of his chest as if he is thinking and immediately shakes his head.

“No, as far as I am remembering someone like that hasn’t come here.” (Devil)

“It’s a straight path. There is no way that they haven’t come here.” (Az)

The male devil displayed a troubled expression towards Az’s words, who is putting himself on guard meanwhile.

“Though, saying it honestly, someone who hasn’t come here simply hasn’t come here. Isn’t that the only answer?” (Devil)

“Let’s change the question then.” (Az)

Hearing Az answer, although Renya’s vigilance gauge has already been maxing out, it is demanding to rise to an even further level of vigilance.

Renya guessed that this existence in front of his eyes made it apparent that it was more dangerous than anything else.

“Did about 11 materials for toying with come here?” (Renya)

The party members look at Renya with a startled facial expression.

Without even the leeway to brush off the intensity of their gazes, Renya is fixing his eyes on the male devil.

For a brief period the male devil stared with an unchanging facial expression at Renya’s face. But before long he showed a complacent smile, loosened the arms, which were crossed in front of his breast, and rubbed together his palms.

Imagining this gesture to somehow resemble a fly, Renya frowns.

“You are an interesting guy.” (Devil)

Stopping to rub his hands together, the male devil draws back the chair and stands up.

His body gives off the impression of being lanky, but he isn't a man of having that much height. Even so the degree of peril, Renya's group has felt until now, didn't alleviate much.

"Toys, huh? Toys, you say. Let's see, how shall I answer this if you ask like that?" (Devil)

Separating his hands from the desk, he spreads them. Without paying mind of Renya's group at all, the male devil walks slowly until he is close to the wall.

Completely as if being some actor, he suddenly decided to turn around alongside the wall and placed both hands on the pure white wall.

Although the wall is supposed to be solid, the man's hands slightly sink into the wall.

"Are these things the toys you are asking about?" (Devil)

The man's hands, which plunged into the wall, completely submerged.

While Renya attentively watches wondering what he is doing, the man was groping about with a rustling sound within the wall for a short while. But having likely found the thing he was looking for, he seized it and extracted it using his crafty hands.

The thing his hands dragged out was...

"That is... Hartz?" (Az)

With a voice dripping with definite dread, Az retreated a step.

Shion's hands holding the sword are clattering and trembling. Rona suppresses a scream from her mouth with both hands.

Renya instinctively starts to draw his katana but stops himself from doing so.

"O... au... H-He... lp..." (Hartz)

The head dragged out from within the wall by its short-cut blonde hair and being tightly held, was Hartz' head.

With blank eyes and pleading to be rescued are leaking out from his partly open mouth.

The right half of his face is blank while still having a trace of being a human remaining, but the left half is bleary due to being partially melted. Its state is that you could peek at the bones through the gaps between the muscle fibers.

Renya's group is frozen due to that abnormality.

"Somehow, from this morning on, fresh food has continuously come rolling in." (Devil)

Releasing his hands from the blonde hair of Hartz, the male devil thrust his hands into yet another part of the wall.

What his hands dragged out was the head of a person with almost only bones remaining and spare strands of dyed brown hair.

Even though Renya believed it to likely be Zest, there is naturally nothing of his face remaining anymore.

"These guys are indeed very fine materials. It has been fun playing with their moderate stoutness. Furthermore they will increase very soon." (Devil)

One after another only human heads are rising to the surface of the pure white wall.

Just like Hartz and Zest there were only faint traces of them having been people remaining. Most of them had lost their shape and were festering due to the melting. They weren't in a state you could bear to look at directly.

Their number certainly is 11.

"We also have various circumstances. For the sake of gathering raw materials for research and partially as hobby, we decided to build a dungeon close to human habitation. Maa, it became a nice fish pond for angling." (Devil)

Not just the head, but also the hands, with their skin dangling due to the melting, the feet, completely turned into white bones, and such gradually were pushed out from within the wall.

This spectacle could doubtlessly be called a nightmare.

If it were a timid person, they would immediately faint with the scene in front of them. With individual differences between each other, there isn't anyone amongst Renya's

group losing consciousness over that degree.

But, each of them ends up gulping down with the scene in front of them unable to make even a single move.

“Since I will give you guys a practical lesson down to the nooks of its effectiveness as well, it is fine to not be that scared.” (Devil)

Persisting with a smile to the end, the male devil tells them bluntly.

From the wall in the back of that man, some things with a human shape, though already having lost their humanity, are crawling out with a slithering sound while extending both hands as if pleading to be saved.

“Maa, for now... I wonder whether I will be able to receive you lot like this as well.” (Devil)

He is totally carefree.

His voice doesn't contain any maliciousness at all.

At the same time as the man said those words, actually enjoying it to do so, the human remains, that crawled out of the wall in his back, rushed forward aiming for Renya's group.

CHAPTER 30

IT SEEMS TO BE THE START OF THE BATTLE

Changed Devil -> Demon

“Run away!” (Renya)

It was Renya who reacted the fastest.

Without turning his head to look back, his yell resounded sharply. While the plate mail of the four rearguards clattered, they tried to escape in a hurry but before long, a shriek was raised from there.

As he directs his view to look over his shoulder, the sole entrance of the room on this side moves and closes itself as if the wall itself was completely alive. Immediately after that the wall blinks in a suspicious red light. From that wall, violet decaying meat that looked like a muddy syrup, oozed out and scattered.

The leaked decaying flesh gathers on the ground and advances as a pile towards the four rearguards albeit slowly.

The four prepared their shields in a defending stance in panic, but soon a second scream resounded.

“The shield is... The shield is rotting!?” (Rearguard)

As a part of the decaying flesh crawls up to them with a slithering sound, something resembling tentacles approaches the four from all sides. The parts of the defending shields, touched by these, changed into a light brown color and crumbled from being worn-out.

“What are these things?! I have never heard of such monsters!” (Rearguard)

If they don't understand its nature, there is no way that they will be able to deal with it.

Renya hurriedly activating the skill <Appraisal>, looked at the message.

<Information: Appraisal Skill – The target's name is a subspecies of RustMonster>

<Information: Help function – Originally RustMonsters are rat-like monsters that consume rust as a staple food. If it is rust generated from metal, it will have an ability to use the rust regardless of the type. On the other hand, it isn't able to affect wooden and pelt products. If you can identify it's true nature, it will be relatively easy to subjugate it. Since it is a monster that absolutely shows no interest in flesh and blood and hasn't any usable smaller raw materials and magic core on top of it, adventurers stay away from it as it is a merely harassing monster.>

As the help function gave him a kind and courteous explanation, Renya inserted a tsukkomi by shouting within his mind *What about this is a rat?* and guessed that describing it as subspecies summarized it all in one word. He appreciates the irresponsible attitude only partly.

“Isn't it lovely? Originally it is a small rat-like monster, but with a little bit of tinkering it has become such fantastic demon. Although it prefers iron rust, it seems that likewise tasting blood is fine as well~” (Demon)

“That is already a totally different monster!” (Renya)

As the male demon explains about that monster delightfully, Renya tsukkomi'd in a loud voice, but the situation for Renya's group just keeps deteriorating.

The number of the things emerging from within the wall is just like the preceding two parties' number of people, 11.

Although their movement is dull, they reliably encircle Renya's group shrinking the circle gradually.

They were things that were emitting an unbearable rotten stench from their bodies but even more than that, their strangeness stopped Renya's group in their tracks.

If you were to make a comparison, they would be quite close to a certain anatomical model of the human body found in a science room at school, but as they are dragging along the partly melted and deteriorated contents of their intestines, it is stimulating, whether you like it or not, a feeling of dread and unpleasantry due to something white and solid appearing and disappearing from within their interior.

Moreover Renya was surprised by the streaming message at the time he paid attention to them.

<Information: Appraisal Skill – The target's name is Human race.>

They are alive?! he ends up yelling within his mind in unpleasant reminiscence.

Despite not being able to see them as anything but zombies no matter how you look at it, the result of the appraisal still labels them as humans.

Although they are some type of human walking monster, exposing colors such as red, white, yellow and some usually unseen colors on their exterior, Renya didn't want to believe that they were still alive.

But if you look at the vicinity of the mouths of the human types approaching them, you had no choice but to realise that they are still living even if you don't believe it.

Even though those mouths have begun to change into white bones caused by the melting, you certainly can hear them muttering 「Please save me!」 .

“Those guys were in the middle of becoming raw materials, but... as you have guessed, they are still alive.” (Demon)

A short gasping sound was audible from Shion due to the words of the male demon.

“But you know, their breath is already mixed with paralysing poison. Their body fluids are nothing more but a resemblance what they once were as well. Even if you want to cling to such things, you guys will soon stop moving too.” (Demon)

“Don't listen to his impertinent talks! Withdraw and link up!” (Renya)

Renya urges his companions, who have ended up petrified, to retreat by calling out to them.

Rather than keeping the strangely shaped humans, albeit still alive, company, Renya considered that it would be easier to support the the eight people in the back in order to do something about the lumps of meat. But as Shion's group wants to abide to the instruction given from the front, the room's entrance door closed with a heavy sound.

“You think I will let you get away? The back is the back, here is here. Let's have some

fun, ok?" (Demon)

"Activate 8 parallel magic formulae, according to my power, fire ball, shoot!" (Renya)

The moment he realised that they had been split up, Renya altered his plan.

With the appearance of eight large fire balls around his fist, he swung his hand down in order to mow down the male demon and released the fire balls at him.

"Congregate my power, shield, repel." (Demon)

As the demon casts his spell, powerful mana is forms around him.

Stopping the flying fire balls, they are repelled and scattered.

After the other side's magic shield vanishes from stopping the eight fire balls, the male demon, while having fun, said,

"Your resolution is quite nice. Furthermore you can activate eight balls simultaneously and use them in parallel. Going by your appearance I thought you were a swordsman, but are you by chance a magician?" (Demon)

Renya doesn't even respond to the question.

"Let's defeat that fellow and link up with those in the rear! Their compatibility with the blood-thirsting monster is too bad!" (Renya)

The four, who were in charge of being rearguards, decided to make their primary objective suppressing their opponents with the force of their defending plate mail.

In front of the monster, which completely breaks apart the armor by rusting it as it is metallic, there is no point in depending on the strength of the defense.

Furthermore, the small sword they possess can't be considered to be effective against those lumps of meat. Moreover this weapon will also end up rusting as well.

If they lose their armor and weapon, there won't be any other option but to get slowly entangled and preyed upon.

As long as they link up, Az and Renya will be able to reduce those lumps of meat to

ashes with spells.

If they can do something about the completely closed pathway, it might also give them a way to escape.

“Un un, you are holding on. If you persevere as long as possible in this way, it will be easier to grasp all of your abilities.” (Demon)

Except defending against Renya’s spell, the male demon didn’t particularly show any kind of movements.

If he attacked him, Renya had the confidence that he would be able to slay him but he would be surely hindered by the 11 things en route.

“Renya, how can we do something about this... ?” (Shion)

Shion asks in a voice as if seeking help.

The human types, albeit slowly, were definitely advancing. They already approached to the extent that their extended hands were in front of their eyes.

Have we entered the effective range of their poisonous breaths? Understanding that they don’t really have any time left as he feels the stimulus of having his skin stabbed with a tingling sensation, Renya shouts without hesitation,

“Cut them down! There is no method to save them! Rona, you are able to detoxify, right?!” (Renya)

“Y-Yes. If it’s at the level of elementary <Detoxification>...” (Rona)

“Az, provide support with spells! Rona, attach importance to detoxifying and healing! Shion, don’t allow the enemies to approach those two!” (Renya)

Shion’s pupils, filled with feelings of panic, has a glimmer of resolve after those instructions.

Although her hands were trembling, she fixed her grip on the long sword’s handle. While adjusting by moving back by half a step, she swung down the overhead-raised longsword obviously bearing the afore-mentioned and very deeply gouged out the collar of the human type that was in front of her.

If the opponent was a person, it should have caused a fatal wound. But it seemed to be insufficient to reap the life of the grotesque human types. Although, is there still some sense of pain remaining? The human type faltered slightly.

Even though it is originally an injury where it won't be strange if blood gushes out as well, blood can't be seen and a thick, black liquid oozes out. While remembering her unpleasant feelings, Shion extracts the wedged blade and delivers a kick into the abdomen of the human type.

Az drove fire ball magic into the face of the human type that had retreated a few steps backward due to the impact.

The human type is in agony as it holds its burning face down.

No matter what strange appearance it has, if it is living, the necessity to breathe is obvious.

However, in addition to not being able to inhale air due to the completely burning head, there is absolutely nothing except suffering due to the heated up air in the lungs and trachea.

When the head of that human type received Shion's blow, the head was severed into two finishing its agony. In the state of being devoured by the flames, it fell down.

Cutting apart the decaying flesh, as she felt the sensation of the kick, Shion screamed while also having a warped face.

"That's the first!" (Shion)

Rona begins to prepare some kind of magic just to make sure. Az determines the next target while trying to start the spell casting. Meanwhile Renya judges it to be fine if he leaves it to them for a while.

If there was no necessity to watch over the safety of his companions, there was only a single thing to do.

It's nothing but slaying that male demon, whose name he doesn't even know, even if it is a second earlier.

Taking a single step forward, it appears as if it is the act of advancing one step into the

attack range.

That is to say, he can get out from the attack range by the one step portion from before. The matter of entering within the attack range of the target has significance.

Then, just what kind of significance does it have to enter or not enter the attack range?

The answer is awfully simple.

Just that he can cut the target down.

Bringing down the mouth of the sheath with in his left hand, he brings up his right hand to the handle of the katana and carries out the action of drawing it without even realising it himself.

The drawn katana surges out from its scabbard. Just by passing through the airspace within the filthied air waffed with a rotten stench, the katana leaves nothing but a fierce atmosphere behind.

In the interval of one breath three flashes advance in a line.

Moreover, Renya advances by one step.

Without even allowing the flesh to reject the passing blade, the severing heads is only accompanied by the sound of its cutting. The number of severed heads is the same numbers as flashes, three.

“This is, once again, amazing.” (Demon)

The demon raises his voice in admiration due to the spectacle in front of his eyes.

No matter what grotesque things they had become, there is no way for them to remain living if they lose their head, especially since their base is human.

Without even sparing the corpses, which are collapsing while falling to their knees, a glance, Renya’s facial expression isn’t moving at all. His eyes doesn’t stray from the demon.

He advances a step once again.

The sword blade isn't returned into the scabbard. The blade rises sharply from the low position it had returned to.

The sharply-rising sword blade jumps to an overhead position and then the blade was once again returned to the low position.

After a while, one long red line that runs from the nether region to the top of the head and from the top of the head to the nether region was developing on two human types.

While spilling their contents and discharging a liquid, where you don't even know whether it's blood or not, the halves of the human types drop to the floor. Renya goes forward without slowing down his pace.

"This is once again, you might be an unexpected find." (Demon)

Even though the entire body of a human type was cut in a flash, the demon's face is full of delight as if coming across something rare.

"Creating a work, using you as base, it will become something very magnificent, it seems." (Demon)

"Isn't this impossible, I wonder?" (Renya)

『君をベースにして作る作品は、
とても素晴らしいものになりそうだ』

『それは無理じゃないかな』

横線に振り抜かれた刃は、
さらに二つの人型の胴体を切り裂いて
上下二つのパーツに切り分けた。



The hand of the replying Renya still doesn't return the held katana into the scabbard.

The naked blade of the katana exist for the sake of killing.

Visibly embodying those words, the drawn blade is swung in a horizontal flash. Once more two human types' bodies are cut up into two parts, this time top and bottom.

The top half, dropped to the floor, squirmed for a while, but treading on the heads, Renya crushed all kind of movement underfoot in one go.

"In total seven. I will leave the other four to them... you don't have anything protecting you any more?" (Renya)

While saying this, Renya also remembered some kind of connection in a corner of his mind.

Putting aside the the abnormal appearance of the human type, they don't even have any particular ability. There were simple puppets.

Trying to grab hold, their actions are nothing but mere demands for help.

Although paralysing poison is mixed within their breath, it wasn't something that could display its effect so long as they don't get close. Renya doesn't notice any abnormalities within his body.

Furthermore, with their nature of being partly decomposed, they don't have something to defend themselves with either as all of them are nude. With even their movements being sluggish, they are subjects of something to be cut in front of the katana. They weren't any more than a straw post for training sword strikes with their small movements.

Either way there is still some doubt remaining, but there is no way left except defeating the demon in front of him.

Without a warning Renya closes the distance now that the things obstructing the space have vanished.

"Congregate my power,... " (Demon)

In correspondence to Renya's approach, the demon began to cast.

What magic will he use? Although Renya can't guess the spell, if it is one or possibly two or three strikes, he will dodge them or endure them charging with the readiness to cut.

"Wind blades, pry!" (Demon)

The wind blades gushing out from the held up palm of the demon exceeded 20 in total number.

Renya was surprised over the number which surpassed his expectations, but there wasn't already any time to evade them.

Renya, who has almost no knowledge about magic, didn't understand what degree of power the spell, sent towards him, would have, but if he had no chance of dodging them, there was only one measure to take.

"Activate 20 parallel magic formulae! <Small Fire Bullet>!" (Renya)

Without dropping his charging speed, he strikes the approaching wind blades by activating the <Small Fire Bullet> spell chantlessly and aiming those at the wind blades.

Fire and wind clash in the front.

The number was almost the same, but was it a difference in ability or weren't the numbers sufficient? The wind is pushing back the fire slightly.

Renya attacks that wind with the katana.

"How foolish! To intercept a wind spell with a katana is..." (Demon)

Originally it is something that isn't possible.

With something like a thick shield you can somehow or other use it in a way as if defending against being cut through. But the act of repelling with a weapon almost never stops spells.

But, that demon didn't know.

The special characteristic of the katana Renya possesses, the attribute of being

indestructible.

If it is something that can be destroyed, it will end up being destroyed one-sidedly. It is an attribute that didn't originally exist in this world.

This isn't just limited to the physical aspect, it also applies to spells.

Although the wind blades don't get extinguished by the fire spell, just as Renya touched them with his swung blade, the spells composition was destroyed and shattered.

The demon's words vanished halfway due to the scene unfolding before him. For the first time the joyful look disappeared from his facial expression.

"Na?" (Demon)



Without even understanding the reason, he sees how the spell vanished.

During the time between the demon, who was surprised over the impossible spectacle, and Renya, an instant of opportunity was born.

As Renya wields a katana, it is unthinkable for him to miss this instant.

The blade, that had mowed down the wind blades, retaliated with a single blow seizing the demon's body.

Swinging the katana as is, before Renya's eyes, as the demon extended his right hand for the sake of emitting a spell, a glassy section visible in the air revolved.

CHAPTER 31

IT SEEMS TO BE THE CONCLUSION

“Gi... i...” (Demon)

Without screaming, as expected I should say, huh?

Was the sharpness of the blade too excessive? The loped off arm danced through the air and dropped to the ground with a *botori* at last. Blood gushed out from the cut off section.

The demon, pinning down the cut off upper arm section, glares at Renya with a gaze filled with hatred, but Renya doesn't care about such things.

Even without this, he can't help but be anxious about how the separated rearguard party is faring.

If he flinched even a little bit from receiving hits, there wouldn't be any chance to talk about taking an advantage here.

The demon released an attack aiming at his neck. Just barely dodging it by bending the body backwards, Renya furthermore slashed his katana diagonally from his shoulder grazing the chest of the demon only shallowly as he misjudged the distance between them.

The demon roared in front of Renya, who tried to plunge into further pursuit.

The voice hasn't been merely loud. It gave birth to pressure by containing mana. Waning in his pursuit, Renya passed his destination and stumbled a step or two forward.

Using this small opportunity, the demon increased the distance between them greatly and retreated up to close to the wall.

Are you planning to run away using some kind of technique? Renya feels a tiny speck of hope.

He is aware that he will be defeated in an exchange of magical blows.

Although Renya didn't comprehend the method and reason as to why he was able to deliver a blow and why the katana was able to negate the wind spell, the fact that it was able to negate it surprised the demon and caused it to show a slight gap in its defense.

So to speak, without even aiming to deliver a blow, it has been a lucky hit due to piling up good fortune.

Connecting to that lucky hit, he completely followed up immediately, but it ended after the demon dodged two pursuing attacks.

In other words, of the aimed attacks not even a single one has hit yet.

With the state being as it is, Renya is sensing that this shows the high physical ability of his opponent, the demon.

Of course, because it's not like he wasn't surprised and hesitant to a slight degree at that time himself either, it was somehow hard to admit that he only used 10% of his entire strength in that attack. But Renya didn't want to continue the battle any longer with the demon, who displayed high abilities despite losing one arm.

If this drags on, it will become more and more disadvantageous for me in proportion to the time it keeps going.

He has such hunch.

I cut off and sent the demon's arm flying as I ended up delivering a good attack by coincidence and good luck. That's all there is.

Although he didn't know which hand was the demon's dominant one, rather than something like that, it is a major feat that blood continues to flow in a steady stream from the large, open wound.

If the demon keeps losing blood as it is, it will result in a loss of strength and impede his ability to concentrate.

"Ba... Bastard..." (Demon)

While gasping in pain, the demon squeezed out those words. Renya wondered whether the demon would utter a single complaint, but his imagination was quickly betrayed.

“Oh, you are possessing something interesting. ...Where did you obtain it?” (Demon)

What are you trying to point out? Renya didn’t understand what he was talking about currently, but before long he realized that the demon was pointing at his katana, which displayed the ability to negate spells.

“Rather than worrying about your own body, this takes priority, huh?” (Renya)

The demon laughed in a low tone resounding from within his throat as Renya revealed such astonishment.

It was a relief for Renya that his laughter didn’t possess much strength.

Undoubtedly the arm injury is shaving off the demon’s physical strength.

“Something like having an arm cut off is trivial. Rather than such a thing, I am interested in that weapon you are holding. The spell was destroyed, no? Usually such a thing is impossible.” (Demon)

“I don’t know about something like that. I also obtained this fellow by trading it from a travelling merchant. If you want to know about its origin, you will have to look for that person.” (Renya)

While thinking that it will be impossible to search for a peddler being a demon on the human’s continent, Renya takes out a paper from the pocket of his trousers and wipes the katana’s blade.

He was worried about the grease that was slightly clinging to the blade after cutting the grotesque human types.

A fast and accurate swung sword almost didn’t allow for blood or grease to stick to its blade, but even so, a little bit of those will still cling to it.

While vigilantly making sure to not divert his view from the demon, Renya slowly wiped the blade. He tossed the used paper casually on the ground after finishing.

“Now then, I thought it was a considerably serious injury, but you are still eager to continue, huh?” (Renya)

Although it will be alright if you withdraw, Renya implied in his words, but he didn’t have any expectations towards the demon’s answer.

“That’s of course. An injury of such degree doesn’t even count.” (Demon)

Although Renya was doubtful whether it was a bluff, he immediately retracted those thoughts.

I really don’t have a good degree of knowledge concerning demons, but I fear that it’s likely that they surpass humans in intelligence as well as physical strength by far.

Actually, though he should have lost quite the amount of blood there was no indication of the demon feeling unwell.

Even if he is grimacing in pain, his eyes are filled with a fiery glare at Renya’s katana.

“What a troublesome fellow...” (Renya)

In front of the grumbling Renya, the demon decided to pick up his dropped arm.

Before extending his hand towards the arm, Renya started to cast the void spell <Small Fire Bullet> once more. He releases 20 parallel activated bullets aiming at the arm laying on the ground.

Ahead of the demon picking it up, it became burned charcoal due to the scorching of the fire spell despite the spell’s impact on the arm was weak.

“You have done a cruel thing. Isn’t that my arm?!” (Demon)

Even though his own arm was burned in front of his eyes, the demon didn’t look overly worried.

“I simply didn’t want you to pick it up and re-attach it.” (Renya)

Although the words spoken about re-attaching and so on were supposed to be a joke from Renya, the demon’s reply didn’t let these words pass as a joke.

“Hou, you are quite good to have guessed it. It can’t be helped now that it has been burned. Let’s grow it back, huh?” (Demon)

For a moment Renya was wondering what this fellow was talking about.

By only putting a little strength into the severed upper arm section the demon stopped the blood flowing out from it.

Before long one part of the upper arm section swelled. Immediately after that it grew in a blink of an eye from within the section. It turned into the shape of the arm before it was loped off.

After checking the condition of the regrown arm by lightly swinging it, the demon laughed.

“With this it’s fine again.” (Demon)

The regrown arm’s difference is the paler skin color than before, but otherwise there isn’t any kind of difference in the shape to the now scorched arm.

I fear it’s likely that there is truly no spot where its performance is inferior, I guess.

“Are you a lizard or a planarian... ?” (Renya)

With a feeling of not wanting to accept the spectacle that took place in front of his eyes, Renya spit out this question.

The strength to regrow something that had been cut off within a short time, if seen from the standpoint of a swordsman, it would be labelled as nightmare or bad joke.

I guess his physical strength and such has diminished due to the lost blood, but it’s still a completely different fighting level having only one arm or two.

This has become a story where it won’t be enough to shave off his fighting strength by cutting off the limbs and such. It won’t end unless I cause a lethal wound with a single strike.

While thinking about the next attack, he stores the katana in its scabbard.

I won’t be able to bring him down with a half-hearted attack.

“No, comparing myself to a lizard, it’s a discourtesy towards lizards.” (Demon)

I guess he heard my provocation, huh? Renya thought.

Attacking from now on, if my opponent isn’t composed to a certain degree, it will increase the success rate.

In reverse, if he loses his cool now, it will increase the probability of making a mistake, but for this it’s preferable if blood rushes to his head and his field of vision narrows down.

Renya removes the scabbard from his waist by strongly flipping the snap fastener of the sword belt.

Facing the demon with the right half of his body, he drops his waist slightly.

Holding the scabbard in his left hand, he places his right hand on the hilt. He twists his body to the left for the sake of getting ready.

“Since I will cut you down in order to not have any troubles in the near future... don’t move from there.” (Renya)

At the same time his words end, he kicks off the ground with his left foot.

In a state of being in a stance close to drawing the blade, the demon can’t even flee from the charging Renya. *(T/N: If I say here Battousai stance, I guess some of you may realize how he charges, just imagine Ruruona Kenshin here. ^^)*

With the previous attack and defense, the demon might have judged that it’s possible to evade Renya’s slash.

Renya agreed with this view as well.

Even an ordinary slash will end up being avoided with a leeway at the current speed.

If that’s the case, there is no other choice but to release an abnormal slashing attack.

Stepping onto the right foot, he pulls up the left foot.

Shortening the distance to the demon’s location by kicking the ground with the left foot without the original restraint, Renya pulled up the left foot without changing the

speed and delivered a kick.

Of course, he isn't yet at a distance where his foot would reach.

Unable to figure out the significance of the left foot, swinging in the air, the demon's field of vision was obscured by the piece of paper, Renya had thrown on the ground after wiping the katana's blade.

"Are you planning to obstruct my view?! How insolent!" (Demon)

The demon roars as he mows down the paper fluttering about with a single strike of his right hand.

Even if his visibility were to be stolen for a moment, with the previous level of attack of Renya, the demon shouldn't even have any particular kind of difficulty to dodge it.

But, that is only if Renya is going to challenge the demon with an ordinary attack on the other side of the paper.

The demon looked on the other side of the removed piece of paper and saw the figure of Renya being in a state of having his back completely turned towards himself.

Not able to comprehend the meaning of that defenseless state, the demon's reaction was once again late.

Renya, who had kicked the piece of paper with his left foot causing it to flutter upwards, rotates 180° by using the toes of his right foot as fulcrum, despite turning his back on the demon, before putting down his left foot.

At the same time of this being something unexpected for the demon, it has become the groundwork for the next attack.

Kicking the ground with his right foot this time, Renya shortened the distance to the demon without changing his turned back. Without even turning around, he stabbed the end of the held scabbard into the abdomen of the demon.

The demon is a living creature as well. If his abdomen is stabbed with force without even any kind of preparation, the demon's breathing will stop.

Naturally, if his breathing is stopped, his movements will cease as well. This will

become a gap in itself.

Reaffirming the reliable feeling of the scabbard grasped in his hand, Renya turns around alongside drawing the blade.

From the right shoulder of the demon, whose movements had stopped, to the opposite shoulder, he cut the body of the demon.

The time of the drawn blade slipping out of the scabbard and the time of turning around with a half rotation matched causing the released slash to be increased by two times the centrifugal force. Absorbed into the collar of the demon, the katana's blade cut through the demon's clothes, meat and bones all together and chopped off the head, the left arm and only one part of the upper half of his body onto the ground.

Without turning his eyes to the remaining body that collapses while spewing forth blood, Renya approaches the head, which is in a state of being attached to the trunk, and immediately severs the head.

After reliably ensuring the demon's death by piercing his katana once through the middle forehead with its somehow puzzled facial expression, Renya perceives that the remaining body isn't showing any signs of movement either. Going to that extent, Renya at last deeply exhaled the air accumulated in his lungs.

CHAPTER 32

IT SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING A BAD BOY WOULD DO

I want to rest.

Renya looks at the situation of Shion's group as he holds down that compelling feeling of such thoughts with willpower.

Somehow or other Shion had slain two human types. Of the remaining two, Az had burned one of them and the other one had its head pulverized by a full swing of Rona's mace.

Finding that the extermination has finished, Renya is relieved.

Since they were basically good-for-nothing dolls only trying to seize their opponents, it would have also been troublesome if the fight had been too close.

"Renya, it looks like you are finished over there... but, once again you have used a weird sword technique." (Shion)

Shion, who seems to have seen the way Renya fought from midway, displays a façade of curiosity while approaching him.

It's about the technique of using the scabbard to deliver a blow and the purposely display of his back to the enemy in the middle of battling.

It can be seen as mere gap, but even this was the groundwork for the sake of producing a centrifugal force.

Fighting in such way is something Shion's group doesn't know.

"Although there is a part of me who wants to teach you, this isn't the time for that." (Renya)

"Yea?" (Shion)

"Did you forget? Az's party members are being attacked in the previous room. If we

don't promptly open the exit of this room, we won't be able to help..." (Renya)

"Ah, there was that." (Shion)

As soon as she is too engrossed in fighting, Shion seems to forget about the things happened before entering combat. While slightly blushing, she approaches the closed exit of the room in a hurry.

Even after defeating the demon, the exit door didn't open.

Shion, who ran up to it, tries to knock on it with her fists, but only a solid sound is returned.

"If that's the case." She now tried to slash at it with the longsword she held, but it only caused a high-pitched sound due to its toughness. Shion looked teary-eyed in the direction of Renya.

"What happened?" (Renya)

"My hands became numb..." (Shion)

Since she hit something hard with all her strength, her hands apparently ended up becoming numb.

Even from the state of the sword you can clearly understand it, because its pointed end has chipped. It has ended up becoming something useless.

"I will have a go. Move out of the way." (Az)

Az has Shion step back and casts a spell.

"Congregate, my strength, magic bullet, pierce it!" (Az)

Using it up to the point of parallel magic formula, Az fired two mana bullets, but as the shots clashed with the closed door, they fruitlessly scattered on the surface of the door and vanished.

Due to that scene, Az glared at the door drawing his eyebrows close together.

"This door had a spell cast on it. And it's even still active." (Az)

“It is still active, you say?” (Renya)

Renya points at the head of the demon he had previously pierced with the katana as he asks, but Az denies it.

“There is no way for it to be active in this situation.” (Az)

“If that’s the case, who the heck is casting the spell?” (Renya)

“I don’t know... However, it is as it is!” (Az)

As if hitting in irritation, Az kicks the door.

Az’s companions are getting attacked in the previous room as well. I guess he sensed that the compatibility with the assaulting monsters is bad for them.

And as he is sensing this, he ends up becoming impatient. But as Shion wasn’t able to cause damage to the door with her slashing attack, it is unthinkable for the kick of a magician to cause any either.

“Renya, can’t you cut this with your slashing attack?” (Az)

While being weighted down by impatience, Az points at the door. Renya is troubled as he can’t say anything in reply.

That is because I can’t analyse the material of the door by looking.

Naturally there is a difference in the method of cutting and attitude if you cut a person or if you cut a tree.

Without understanding what you might be cutting, it’s possible to cut something by wielding a blade, but at most it’s limited to something trivial.

And in the case of this door, made out of metal, there is no way to simply cut it since it should be fairly thick.

If Renya clearly understood the special characteristic of the katana he possesses, he would realize its ability of cutting anything even if the door were made out of steel. But currently Renya doesn’t know about this and there is no one to tell him about it either.

“Umm... Renya-san?” (Rona)

During the time Renya’s group was spending all their time and energy on the door, Rona, who was standing as if guarding their rear, called out to Renya.

“What is it, Rona? We are currently quite at our wit’s end here.” (Renya)

“There is a reasonable state of emergency over here as well.” (Rona)

Renya turns around as he sensed something within Rona’s tone of voice.

“What’s up?” (Renya)

“The corpses... vanished.” (Rona)

Now that she said this, there should be 11 corpses since Renya and Shion’s group defeated them.

Furthermore, at the place where the corpse of the demon, who was chopped up by Renya, should be, not a single trace remains. It looked as if the corpses had vanished.

Incidentally, looking at the point of the katana, the head of the demon, which had been stabbed, was still there.

If that’s the case, it’s not as if Renya dreamed of defeating the demon.

“What the hell is this? ... What’s this about?” (Shion)

“All of you, be cautious! Something is strange!” (Renya)

Without checking what’s going on, everyone abided by his order. Renya is examining the surroundings in order to not miss even a single tiny disparity with his eyes.

Although they had been cut up and scorched, doubtlessly, the remains of the corpses of Zest’s and Hartz’ parties should be scattered on the ground.

Also, the body of the demon, chopped up by Renya, should be divided into several parts and laying on the ground.

Now that these are missing, it means that someone or something had cleaned up those

corpses, but being in the same room, how the hell could the corpses vanish without Renya as well as the others noticing anything?

There is no change on the floor visible.

The ebony desk as well. Though it lost its owner, it's still there.

The wall as been strengthened by some kind of coating. It is a cold mud wall.

"... Mud wall?" (Renya)

Why can a mud wall be seen? Renya realizes the abnormality.

The color of the wall, at the time they entered the room, was supposed to be white.

And currently the room is exposing a mud wall similar to the one they had seen before they entered this room.

"How did you call the wall... ?" (Az)

Without being able to finish his question, Az is blown away from in front of the door and is thrown into the ebony desk in the center of the room. While destroying it, he tumbled up to the wall on the opposite side.

Although Shion was taken aback watching this, she tries to dodge something that tries to once again blow her away crashing into the wall.

As the blade of the long sword defends against the force of something before she gets blown away, it snaps from the middle and drops to the ground. Even the hilt fell to the floor parting from her hands due to the power.

"Shion?!" (Rona)

Rona tried to rush over. Renya tried to hold her back but isn't in time.

Something like a whip twines itself around the feet of Rona, who tried to start running. Dragging her body, which has been knocked down, it swings the body and throws it at the wall.

At the time the body was thrown, a sound of bones breaking from her seized feet could

be heard. With a speed as if it wouldn't even permit something like taking a defensive stance, Rona crashed into the wall with her back.

In a flash the three people were rendered helpless.

In the meanwhile, although Renya wasn't able to move, he sees a shadow of a person standing in front of the room's exit door and scrutinizes his eyes.

"You... Didn't I kill you?" (Renya)

"That's right. Certainly you might have killed me." (Demon)

Joining his hand together behind his back, he, who threw the three against the wall moments ago, beams with a friendly smile. He showed himself by answering Renya's question in a non-serious manner.

Dark brown skin and light purple hair.

Slightly pointed ears and almond-shaped pupils.

Casually wearing a white robe, it was without any doubt the male demon, who should have been cut down by Renya.

While capturing his appearance with his eyes, Renya looks at his katana's point with a glance.

The demon's head, pierced by the blade, was still there, but it transformed into a white color from within before his eyes and similar to melted butter it drooped to the ground. It smoothly flowed towards the male demon's feet and clinging to his toes, it was absorbed. It ended up vanishing into being a part of the man.

"You are a slime, huh... ?" (Renya)

Renya tries to say the name of the monster that popped up in his mind seeing this spectacle, but the man showed a single sigh.

"Why do you have to view me as identical to an inferior viscous liquid creature?" (Demon)

"I guess you feel similar to it." (Renya)

“Hmm, there might be such viewpoint as well.” (Demon)

While he saw Renya preparing the katana which lost its weight, the demon laughed apparently enjoying it very much.

Despite being cautious of the laughing demon, Renya probes into the state of the three, who were slammed against the wall, but the three weren't even moving with a twitch.

It would be nice, if they only fainted, Renya prays.

“By no means I considered the white stuff clinging to the wall to be your main body.” (Renya)

“Although, to be correct, it was also clinging to the ceiling. Only a part of me kept you company. That's how it is.” (Demon)

If those words were right, this demon would apparently be responsible for the lighting of the room as well.

Having his offshoot working, his main body puts the environment of the room in order. You can call this a very efficient method of operating, Renya ends up harboring such out-of-place thoughts.

“We were in your belly from the beginning, huh? It feels bad... Do all of those called demons feel like this?” (Renya)

While continuing the conversation, Renya is pondering what he should do.

I cut no more than a part of him before. I'm sure that the main body will be far more powerful.

In reality Renya didn't see the attack which assaulted Az and Shion at all.

In addition, since the demon has also seen his technique used as clever scheme, it's unthinkable for it to work a second time.

He can't discover a clue how to win.

“If all demons were like this, I don't think there would another races exist on this continent by now.” (Demon)

“Well, then what are you?” (Renya)

“Emil=Rajah. A demonic researcher. Though I think it will become a short-lived association, please treat me favorably.” (Emil)

With the demon introducing himself, Renya is able to confirm two facts.

First, demons also have names. This can be called quite obvious.

Second, it appears that this demon doesn't really intend to allow anyone to stay alive and let them return from this place.

“My subject of study is called biotechnology. By combining something one way or the other, I create resilient life-forms. That's the thing I am researching.” (Emil)

Never did Renya expect for biotechnology to exist in this world, but he guessed that it was likely a research branch of such things as alchemy or sorcery.

But, it is just an assumption that it is some kind of research branch.

“There are fellows who looked down on my subject of study being life as blasphemy.” (Emil)

Emil spoke of this, doubtlessly, without concerning himself over something like the intentions of his targets. It is a technology of completely changing an existence into something totally different by tampering with it.

It doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to his previous world.

“Isn't this point just a discrepancy of opinions? As for me, I think it's a valuable research that pushes up life to a higher stage, but...” (Emil)

“If you think like that, you should first become research material yourself.” (Renya)

“Just what are you talking about?” (Emil)

Emil asked obviously not comprehending the words Renya spit out.

Renya's complexion slightly changed as he judged the question in itself as answer.

He clearly became pale.

“Isn’t such thing like yourself becoming a research material only natural?” (Emil)

If the researchers of this world heard this, all of them would deny the contents of those words. Emil talked about this without even any kind of enthusiasm.

He only has an expression of genuine marvel why Renya expressly said such obvious thing.

“My body is built by many flexible cells which allow for a range of form changes. This is one result of my research.” (Emil)

“... I did think the contents of your head might not be straight, but...” (Renya)

“Research, it is research. If it’s necessary for that reason, a researcher will use only the necessary, be it himself or others, don’t you agree?” (Emil)

While asking, Emil’s both hands reach to the ground picking up something like a thin, long, extending whip.

It’s the true identity of what tossed Rona’s body and threw Az and Shion against the wall. Both of Emil’s hands seemed to change their shape into something like tentacles.

“Didn’t you say some time ago that you used this dungeon as fish pond?” (Renya)

If the talking finishes, the combat will begin.

If it turns into combat, Renya will be at an overwhelming disadvantage as he hasn’t figured out a method to win yet. While thinking about ways to prolong the talks, he is observing Emil.

“In other words, there isn’t a core in this dungeon, right?” (Renya)

“If forced to say, I am the core, I guess?” (Emil)

Emil arbitrarily swung his right arm lightly.

At the same time the flexible pointed end of the whip vanishes from Renya’s vision. Renya ends up staggering sensing an impact on his left shoulder.

As the stricken left shoulder ended up having its clothes torn, welts became apparent on his skin, but there wasn't any abnormality in his bones and flesh yet.

"Were you unable to see it? You didn't see it, right?" (Emil)

Emil laughed completely delightfully.

"Then, I wonder if you have a good resolution? You are an opponent who killed my offshoot one time. After teasing you plentifully, all of you will get along as research materials." (Emil)

The way the man strikes with the whip isn't probably something enjoyable to look at, while thinking this, he doesn't even have the leeway to crack such jokes in the current state. Renya set up his katana.

CHAPTER 33

IT SEEMS TO BE SOMETHING THAT CAN'T BE TOLD TO ANYONE

“Well then... let's start?” (Emil)

Squinting as if aiming, just as Emil declared this in a whisper, the light in the room went out.

Without even showing any behaviour of panic towards having his vision abruptly stolen, Renya gave off a single loud sound of *thunk* with his tongue.

Within a darkness where he can't even see anything in front of his nose, Renya brandishes the katana.

He felt a slight feedback in the hand grasping the hilt.

Holding the time of the sensation dear, he draws the katana close to himself and then immediately leaves from the spot there.

Merely an instant later a sound of a whip striking the ground resounds.

If he excludes the vicinity where the sound spread, he feels that the point of his katana seized something to a slight degree.

“I never expected it, but do you see it?” (Emil)

Renya releases a thrust towards the direction the voice came from, but he finishes the strike in vain without even any kind of feedback.

While changing the position at which he stands bit by bit, Renya answered into the darkness.

“There is no way for me to see the situation with no light as I have human eyes.” (Renya)

“That's unexpected.” (Emil)

He realizes something has passed by trying to graze him as he lightly bends back his upper body.

Rather than quickly restoring his stance, he swung his katana as if scooping something up and felt a quick and proper feedback returning to his hand this time.

A small voice of pain is raised.

I guess it's damage to the extent of having shaved off a small quantity of the pinky's end?
Renya judges with a bitter feeling.

"The attacks and counter-attacks are awfully precise." (Emil)

"That's because it's fine to act as usual. On the other hand, your habitual behaviour is apparently extremely evil." (Renya)

Is he thinking that it is easy no matter whether I see him or not? His attacks are extremely monotone and simple.

He shouldn't be able to see. Renya stamps his feet and sometimes clicks his tongue slightly while evading.

"The sounds, huh?" (Emil)

Renya ends up unintentionally clicking his tongue with a different sound of *tsk* towards the words murmured by Emil after many exchanges of offence and defence.

Although he nimbly steps and cuts into the direction the voice came from, there is no response.

Renya was aware that he once again finished his attack in vain, but while quickly turning around, the ceiling recovered its soft light and his vision returned.

Emil is standing before the turning around Renya with an expression filled with extreme fascination.

His body is covered with several light and small wounds all over.

"Is it a technique of probing the surroundings with the echo of the clicking-tongue-sounds and stepping-into-sounds? You are possessing an interesting skill there."

(Emil)

“Nothing less from a researcher, I guess. You have exposed my ability rather quickly.”
(Renya)

Although Renya said this in a loathsome manner, he assumed in advance that it would be exposed what he is doing.

But, the time to expose it has been far shorter than he assumed.

“If you are able to react to such a degree within darkness, there won’t be any meaning in stealing your visibility.” (Emil)

“That’s why you turned on the light?” (Renya)

“I have decided it would be good to brighten up the place if I’m to observe you.” (Emil)

Emil’s tentacles, which have changed into two hands, were in the middle of splitting into two again.

The tentacles, which became four in total, are wriggling. Emil laughs as if he is very happy.

“Next is an experiment of reaction speed. How far will you be able to follow, I wonder?”
(Emil)

A white whip comes flying.

It’s different from a whip used by humans. There isn’t any part of preliminary movement before brandishing it. It feels abnormally fast. Renya repels it with the katana.

The act of striking this with a blade is as if it’s part of living flesh. If I had to say, the way Emil uses his tentacles for striking will result in producing numerous wounds, but there’s no hint of the number of attacks declining.

While finding himself in a state of only defending due to the consecutive, interweaving attacks of the four tentacle whips, Renya reduces the distance to Emil little by little.

If he moves forward towards his destination, the ferocity of the attacks will only

increase, but it is out of the question to not get close until he is in slashing range since the attacks will increase anyway.

Is Emil realizing this as well? At the same time Renya moves forward, Emil withdraws to the back.

Although Renya grinds his teeth due to the situation of being unable to shorten the distance, he is well aware that it will be a painful experience if he chases after him in haste.

“Wonderful~, once you were able to secure your field of vision, you can handle such amount of attacks well by using your blade~.” (Emil)

Despite having been hit just now, Emil laughs.

“This much pointless chattering, let me kill you quickly.” (Renya)

Renya was warning himself to not rush and to not get impatient, but he ends up feeling in a hurry no matter how much he tries to persuade himself.

Even more than the matter of the four fighting hand-to-hand against those lumps of meat in the neighbouring room, he can't help it but be worried about the condition of the three in this room, who ended up rendered helpless all of a sudden.

Especially the way Az was blown away was horrible. The bones of Rona's feet, who was tossed away while having her feet seized, are definitely broken.

Even if Shion managed to successfully defend herself to some degree, she has received an attack of the degree of breaking the sword she used as shield.

Renya wanted a doctor to take a look as soon as possible, but, for argument's sake, even if they left from here right away, it would still take a day by carriage to the city where you can find doctors.

I don't have much time, comprehending the situation, Renya's impatience is spurred on even more.

While continuing to deal with the approaching whip strikes and telling himself to calm down, Renya tells himself to hold his temper.

If he fails to handle it well despite having got used to follow the whips with his eyes, the situation will change into himself being helpless as well.

And if he is rendered helpless, it will mean their total annihilation.

If they were to be completely defeated, there wouldn't be an helping hands coming either.

There would be no other choice but to pray that their deaths would at least be swift in regards to their future.

"I don't even have anything to criticize about your stamina. You haven amazing endurance to keep maintaining to handle it so well at this speed." (Emil)

Without even having the leeway to answer, the silent Renya directed a dark smile at Emil as if having thought up something interesting.

"But, you know. There is a difference in this situation." (Emil)

"..." (Renya)

"I wonder what will happen if I were to steal your vision once again?" (Emil)

Though Renya dispersed the striking tentacles until now, Emil attacks Renya with all four at once.

And with this timing Emil erased the light source a second time.

"Eh?" (Emil)

Renya slips through the four attacking tentacles and steps into range.

Emil dumbfoundedly stared at the sharp downward swing of the brandished katana aiming for his head.

And yet, be it his survival instinct starting to work or be it him doing it unconsciously, he is taking action to evade with his body.

He sidestepped the blade though only slightly. Biting into Emil's left shoulder and severing the left arm from its root at the body, the returning blade tore the abdomen

on Emil's left flank to pieces.

Is he blocking the pain? Emil didn't raise his voice, but in order to avoid further attacks he swings his right tentacles while making sure to separate from Renya by rolling over.

Renya decided to pursuit him, but because he has to dodge the wielded tentacles, he had no choice but to jump back.

"This is..." (Emil)

From the root of the left arm dark red blood is flowing while Emil looks up at the ceiling.

The light source that should have been erased continued to brighten the room without disappearing.

This sight has stolen a small amount of Emil's time which resulted in receiving Renya full power hit.

"I thought I caused the light to disappear once again seeing a good chance to do so." (Emil)

Renya kicks the tentacles, which are wriggling on the ground with a **biku biku** similar to the cut off tail of a lizard, flying and scorches them with a number of chantless as if saying "With this it's done, huh?" while looking at his right side where Emil places his hand on the ground in order to stand up.

"I overwrote it. It's a convenient skill, this chantless casting." (Renya)

Although Emil's face was completely devoted to smiling, it now warped in shock.

Renya didn't understand the reason for that, but before he could start to think about it, Emil asked a question with a trembling voice.

"What are you? What the heck?" (Emil)

"Renya=Kunugi. A normal adventurer and a Lost. Although I think it will be a short association, well, please treat me favourably." (Renya)

As if extracting his revenge, Renya assaults him with such words. Now Emil is cornered

into a defensive fight.

Emil didn't look as if he was feeling pain from losing his left arm, but his breath definitely started to become disordered.

"I can't believe it. Why am I, a honourable demon, out of breath?" (Emil)

"Well, aren't you the researcher here? Reflect on it yourself." (Renya)

With the tentacles movements beginning to become dull, they aren't capable of defending against Renya's attacks.

The tentacles' tips are loped off and drop to the ground. In these gaps Emil's real body begins to suffer numerous wounds due to the slipped through attacks. Before long the remaining right arm is cut off from the shoulder and sent flying as well. As expected, Emil, having lost all strength, ends up sitting on the ground crumbling down from his waist.

Emil began to talk with a serious look as Renya brandished his katana about to finish him off.

"Let's make a deal." (Emil)

Without responding, Renya swings down his katana, but stops his hands spontaneously as he hears Emil's next words.

"The three people are your companions, but won't one or two of them die at this rate?!" (Emil)

"What was that?" (Renya)

"Even if I'm a demon like this, I'm someone whose research is centred on life as I did also tell you before. I have knowledge about healing arts too. I do understand at least what degree of damage I have caused." (Emil)



Renya urged him on to continue in silence.

Emil, who lost both hands, sat cross-legged at the spot and continued his words making sure to look up at Renya.

“There is no problem with that dumb swordswoman. The problems are with that gloomy magician and Eroī-sleep-chan, but...” (Emil) (*T/N: eroī = erotic/pornographic, in other words big-boobed Rona*)

“Shouldn’t you be careful with your words?” (Renya)

While I have given him a warning for the time being, why is he describing it so distinctly? I wonder if it is something that easy to understand? Renya ends up pondering about it slightly.

At the same time, he ended up feeling a bit of pity for Rona who has been called pornographic even by the demon.

“Although I am sorry if I hurt your feelings, the magician and sleep-chan are in danger. If they aren’t brought to a doctor immediately, it will become a matter of life and death or they will have critical after-effects remaining.” (Emil)

“And?” (Renya)

“There is a doctor here.” (Emil)

Although he wasn’t able to point at himself since he had no arms, going by his words, it looks like he is talking about himself.

Renya laughed scornfully at those words.

“For argument’s sake, even if you are a doctor, what can you do without your arms?” (Renya)

“If you allow me to wait for a bit, I will be able to regrow them. I will treat those two if you turn a blind eye towards me.” (Emil)

The act of turning a blind eye on a demon, Renya doesn’t know what kind of meaning it holds in this world.

Perhaps it might be equivalent to an act of overlooking a so-called criminal in my original world.

But, without thinking about the ethical part, it was certainly and attractive proposition because he would be able to get medical treatment for the two heavily injured.

“I’m unable to trust you.” (Renya)

Even if it was an attractive proposition, it’s unthinkable to be able to trust the words of an opponent who tried to take his life until moments ago.

Renya told him directly as he thrust out his katana, but his mind was wavering quite a bit.

Despite Renya not having knowledge in healing arts or such, he was able to agree with the words that Az, who received the attack directly, and Rona, who was thrown without even taking up a defensive stance, were in a perilous condition.

He was also worried about Shion’s condition, but since she already has enough of defence to some degree, he knows that her life isn’t at risk.

Assuming I travelled such distance in one day with all my might taking the two of them along on the carriage in such dangerous state, would I be able to save the two in the end? That’s the problem.

Renya doesn’t have a clear answer regarding this on hand.

“This is a deal, I told you. I don’t know about other demons. As me being a researcher comes first, I’m sincere to some degree with other things falling in line with this. While we are at it, I will also immediately free the four people scuffling in the other room.” (Emil)

“Since I won’t be able to continue his research if I end up dying”, Emil laughs.

“Are they alive?” (Renya)

There isn’t any meaning in accepting their return if the four have already died.

Emil nodded towards Renya, who wanted to have confirmation.

“Yes, I guarantee it.” (Emil)

“... But, you took the lives of the other 11...” (Renya)

“Were those lives important to you?” (Emil)

The reluctance of those words reached Renya’s ears.

After inserting a mere short while of silence, Renya talks.

“I don’t see any necessity to answer.” (Renya)

“Is that so? So, what will you do?” (Emil)

Emil’s severed arms grew from the shoulder sections speedily and without delay.

Emil shows a waving of his hands with a flapping sound towards Renya, who strengthens his vigilance.

“Those are normal hands. There is more time necessary to regrow hands for the sake of attacking.” (Emil)

“... What’s the probability of saving the two?” (Renya)

“If you let me undertake the treatment right now, it will be 100%. Shall I show you how I heal them completely without even any after-effects?” (Emil)

“What will be your answer?” Emil asked him with the katana thrust in front of his eyes. Renya quietly withdrew it and slowly stored it in the scabbard.

Seeing this motion, Emil stands up with a “heave-ho.”

Renya couldn’t hold him back.

“I think it’s fine to see this as having a deal, right?” (Emil)

“Though I will regret this in a distant future. Get lost from this plot of land right after you finished the treatment. I plan to excuse it with the fact that I almost lost my companions.” (Renya)

“You won’t regret this. I have a fairly strong sense of duty.” (Emil)

Once again a smile is pasted on his face. Emil displays it as he hits his chest with a single *pon*.

Something like the honour of a demon, I wonder to what extent it goes? Renya looked up to sky by himself leaking a sigh.

CHAPTER 34

IT SEEMS TO BE SEQUEL 1

Leaving the kitchen of the inn, he recovers the received earthenware jar.

He was very anxious whether it has grown properly, but once he opens the lid he can see bubbling and foam rising. Blended with an aroma of fruits, a slight smell of alcohol drifts upwards.

Renya smiled cheerfully when he saw the major success.

This drifting scent, similar to a stinking impact, indicates that the contents of the jar had been completely broken down by the saprophytic bacteria. Though it could have become a failure, after he sniffed the scent, he was certain that it hadn't turned out like this.

He had a feeling that it was just a little bit wasteful, but decided to dispose of the fruits after they had finished their duty. If he filters the remaining liquid with a clean cloth, the yeast liquid, Renya aimed for, will become complete.

After mixing this with wheat flour at room temperature, he will let it ferment at a cool, dark place. If he repeats the process of mixing it with wheat flour three times, he will have finished a splendid bread material.

If he mixes this with the ingredients of bread, the ingredients will have a slight aroma of fruits and it will rise to a soft and fluffy bread. That's the plan. *(T/N: In other words, he is making yeast)*

No matter how long you keep it, it stays usable. With the costs of production being cheap as well, Renya already wanted to excuse himself from chewing that hard bread ever again.

After all, for bread to be slightly delicious, it can't do without softness, he judges.

The ingredients are completed now too. I have been waiting for the task of securing a place to bake bread, but this depends on the money to be paid either way, he is thinking.

At any rate, Renya thinks back about 2 or 3 days ago being pointlessly worn-out at this place.

“For now, I will take this.” (Renya)

In the midst of moving to the two people, Az and Rona, who were in a state of being slapped into the wall of the dungeon, Emil handed Renya a red, transparent gem with a size similar to a chicken’s egg. He performed the medical treatment, with a few potions and spells while the patients made terrible sounds similar to something you mustn’t listen to, afterwards.

Although Az and Rona had a somewhat ashen complexion bleeding all over and sleeping on the floor at that time, their complexions recovered after the treatment and their breathing also returned to be calm.

Renya was doubting whether he shouldn’t do something due to unimaginable calmness after that falling sound, but Emil denied this with all his power.

Shion hasn’t yet regained her consciousness either. She was sleeping together with Az’ group in a shape of 川|. With the extent of her injuries, after some brief medical examination of checking her internals for abnormalities, she is sleeping in a state of being soaked in potion liquid with which she has been completely showered spilling it all over her.

Renya was worried whether she would catch a cold even if she was healed from her wounds, but since Emil, knowledgeable in healing arts, took responsibility for it to be fine, he decided to leave her alone as she would receive a cold at worst.

“What’s this?” (Renya)

“A magic gem, it’s big, right? You can’t say this was a dungeon core, if it isn’t at least this big, right?” (Emil)

While saying so, Emil pokes the magic gem, resting on his plan, with a slight movement of his finger.

With only that action the magic gem broke right in half from the place he poked at.

“Okay, with this the dungeon core dummy is finished.” (Emil)

“Won’t it be exposed in an examination?” (Renya)

Renya receives the magic gem that was held out with a “Here you go.” while staring at it closely.

Being split into two, you can still say it’s a big magic gem.

Although he doesn’t doubt that it can be sold for quite a sum of money, Renya doesn’t know about the difference between a magic gem and a dungeon core. He will be troubled if someone examines it and blames him for it not being a dungeon core.

“No, no, that won’t be exposed. In the first place the human race doesn’t even know how to examine it.” (Emil)

“Is that how it is?” (Renya)

“That’s how it is, I guess. After all, if we are talking about the human race, they don’t even know that a dungeon core is a <thing with some intelligence>.” (Emil)

“Hmm?” (Renya)

As it is a word he hadn’t heard yet, it will turn into him relying on the help function once again, but he postpones this since that’s currently out of the question.

“Because it looks like it will become a long story, let’s leave it for another time. Don’t you want to carry the four over there and the three over here outside? We will finish it quickly as I will help you.” (Emil)

Most of the armour of the four, who had been attacked by the RustMonster, has ended up being destroyed due to the rust. Furthermore, as quite an amount of blood had been sucked out of them, though it wasn’t an amount to endanger their lives, they were in a state of having fainted and thus requiring assistance.

Had their bodies been crushed all over due to the lumps of meat swallowing them occasionally? It even has resulted in partial loss of flesh and bone fractures. Emil applied medical treatment for the bone fractures, but he gave up on the loss of flesh as he didn’t know what to do about it.

“Though it is my fault... Seeing this, did your intention to turn a blind eye toward me disappear?” (Emil)

“No, you have kept your promise since you saved their lives.” (Renya)

“The risk of something like losing a part of the body is something adventurers naturally take into consideration, I think”, Renya says.

“It’s fine if you are okay with it~” Emil suddenly lifts up two people with both hands.

The arm strength to lift an adult person with one arm, it was a spectacle that gave Renya an actual feeling of demons having different abilities after all.

“As I will carry the men, please handle the two women~” (Emil)

“A woman-hater, huh?” (Renya)

“That’s because women of the human race are troublesome~ Besides...” (Emil)

Emil says while broadly grinning and laughing.

“Can’t you touch them as much as you like if it’s now?” (Emil)

“Won’t they be no different of a doll as their bodies will show no reactions?” (Renya)

As Renya displays astonishment wondering what Emil is talking about, Emil laughs while smirking after seeing Renya’s puzzled face.

“Though it will be fine to enjoy it a bit seeing that they are such beautiful girls, no?” (Emil)

“If you have the time to talk about worthless things, then carry them quickly.” (Renya)

Since Renya had a hunch that Emil would say something outrageous if they continued to chatter any longer, he urged him to work by kicking the butt of Emil who seemed as if he wanted to say something else.

Although the reason wasn’t that he was offered to do it, Renya transported the two, Shion and Rona, in what commonly is referred as princess carry up to the carriage.

Because Emil thoroughly made fun of Az and his four guards by quickly tossing them onto the carriage, he also received an upper roundhouse kick without caring about the health of his head due to this act, but it was as if he completely didn’t resist it.

“For the time being~ I wish to express my gratitude towards you. You are those guys lifesaver, I guess. I don’t have any confidence whether my wording is right or wrong though as I am no writer or novelist.” (Emil)

Since it would be too many people for one carriage to transport, if all members were to be put on the load-carrying tray of one carriage, they connected a second load-carrying tray. Renya affixed the harness to the wagon in order for the two horses to even be able to pull this. Setting free the horses Zest and Hertz brought along, and after incinerating the luggage, which lost its use, in the end, Emil spoke to Renya with a serious face.

“Based on the demon’s common sense it would be normal to seriously compete until one of us dies~ Therefore, I, who made a blunder, is lucky to survive. I won’t forget the favour of being overlooked.” (Emil)

Renya didn’t plan for his opponent to one-sidedly feel indebted towards him since the overlooking was the bargaining point, but he thought it would be fine if Emil wanted to consider it like this.

Incidentally, though he thought it would be pointless, he decided to try saying something that wouldn’t happen if he didn’t say it.

“Since you might forget it, refrain from such things as experimenting on living people.” (Renya)

“That is impossible.” (Emil)

Since the answer was returned without delay, Renya sighed and remained silent as he knew the answer from the start.

“Well, then adjust it a bit.” (Renya)

“That’s also impossible. However, I will give you this.” (Emil)

Emil held out one small, metal stick.

To Renya’s eyes it looks like a ball-point pen. The tip is only a little sharp, but it’s not sharp to the point of piercing. A slight roundness has been applied on the tip.

Renya activated his <Appraisal> skill as he didn’t know about the material by just

looking and touching.

<Information: Marking pen>

“... What’s this?” (Renya)

“Why don’t you try to write some symbol you know on your palm with this?” (Emil)

Following the advice as is, Renya tries to write the character 「蓮」 from his original world on his left palm. (T/N: 蓮弥 is Renya’s name. 蓮 means Sacred Lotus whereas 弥 means increasingly/all the more. In Romaji it is Hasuya, read as Renya)

Although he watches himself writing, there was nothing written out on the palm.

Was there somet trick to it? As Renya glares at Emil, Emil touches Renya’s palm with a facial expression of this being totally unexpected.

Just at that moment Renya’s palm with the character of 「蓮」 on it cast a violet light and the character became visible.

“This is the effect of the magic tool <Marking pen>. If you write this character on some easily readable body part, they will see it if it’s people authorized by you. Have them vow to not turn against you, as authorized parties.” (Emil)

“Then, if I recklessly write it all over...” (Renya)

“The writing is for up to the first four people. It would be best to choose the writing well.” (Emil)

Renya’s expression became sullen due to Emil, who predicted that Renya would say this.

“It isn’t because I am mean-spirited. It isn’t my fault that the magic tool has such specifications.” (Emil)

“Let’s pretend that it’s like this... I will accept it.” (Renya)

At least I have saved three people today, considering it like that meant that I gained more than nothing, I guess? Renya puts away the pen, he received, into his void storage.

Since he had a vague feeling that he would forget it in the end, he immediately wrote Rona, Shion and Az.

It was just the right time as the three haven't regained the consciousness yet.

"Well then, I suppose I will return to my dearly missed birthplace, the demon continent. It would be nice if we could meet again, Renya-kun~" (Emil)

"I'd like to refuse that. Even if we fight once again next time, I don't feel like I will be able to win. Can you remove the dungeon by burying it before you go back?" (Renya)

This time I won against Emil. But if Emil attacked at full throttle from the beginning with the abilities of his body, then I wouldn't have overcome him, Renya is thinking.

The cause of Emil's defeat is him taking inferior measures to observe us little by little and to test and assess us.

For example, if he only released simultaneous hits aiming at the vital spots with attacks like the one Renya received on his left shoulder from those tentacles, he wouldn't likely be able to avoid them in the state of his eyes not being accustomed to the darkness. *I should have been finished,* Renya judged.

As someone innocently following their profession, fighting in that situation might be called the impediment of a researcher.

"Though that might be, I won't fight with you anymore. You are quite interesting. You are fascinating because you are a Lost." (Emil)

"How annoying..." (Renya)

"Is that so~? If you get along with me, it will have various advantages, Renya-kun." (Emil)

After that, bidding farewell from Emil, Renya trudgingly drove the carriage by himself transporting the seven people who didn't regain their consciousness.

It was good that I was taught by Shion how to handle a carriage so I can move it to some extent, Renya thought from the bottom of his heart.

In the end the seven didn't regain their consciousness until they arrived at the city.

Just as they reached the city, one after the other regained their consciousness.

Renya is harbouring something close to conviction that its definitely the result of something prepared by Emil, but he is also believing to the same degree that there won't be any further strange behaviours from the seven.

Just having no more than regained their consciousness, their endurance had declined due to such things as getting injured and having lost blood. At that time they haven't yet fully recovered. With Renya at the front of everyone returning to the city, he was questioned by the guards of the gate. Shortly thereafter they were forced to get hospitalized by a skilled and famous doctor.

As everyone's part of legal formalities was finished, they headed to the guild at once in order to report the annihilation of Zest' and Hartz' parties and the destruction of the dungeon core.

After reporting, he was seized and dragged into a separate room by Fritz.

"Can you tell me what happened? Of course you can report about it, right?" (Fritz)

"It was a shallow dungeon, but there was a demon there. That guy just decided to massacre the two parties." (Renya)

"If that's really the truth, it's a grave situation. Although I could force the confirmation with the magic <Deliberation>, would you please cooperate?" (Fritz)

"Give me some money? I don't have any obligation to work for free." (Renya)

A priest, able to use the spell <Deliberation> was called right away and they began the questioning of Renya.

"Is it true that there was a demon in a dungeon this close to the city?" (Fritz)

"That's right." (Renya)

"Did that demon kill Hartz and Zest?" (Fritz)

"That's what you've been told." (Renya)

"What happened with that demon?" (Fritz)

“Though we fought, I couldn’t kill him. The demon ran away.” (Renya)

The spell <Deliberation> analysing all of Renya’s words upon their truth, it caused a tumult within the guild.

Although Renya didn’t understand why it caused such clamour, he caught one of the running around guild staff members. Because somehow a demon appeared close to human habitation, it was a serious matter as one or two cities could end up being annihilated if one is unlucky.

While looking at the guild, which began to noisily put up a request of rescheduling the city’s defence organization and to assemble a new investigation team, with a sidelong glance, the released Renya is feeling that the skill to be able to use the spell <Deliberation> has no meaning at all.

For Zest and Hartz it was terrible to be alive at the time they were captured by Emil.

Most likely those two had been actually killed by someone amongst the four of Renya’s group fighting those temporary human types.

Even though he also somehow had a feeling that they were amongst the seven people he killed himself, there is no way for him to remember forever such a things as the opponents he killed.

Having being asked here whether it was the demon who killed Hartz and Zest, <Deliberation> should judge this as lie if he answered with a confirmation.

However, Renya’s answer was 「That’s what you’ve been told」 and <Deliberation> determined this as the truth.

Renya hasn’t lied.

Just, with the words being insufficient, he would have answered 「That’s what I’ve told you」 , if he were to complement it accurately.

If it had been this, I wonder how it would have turned out actually? Since only correct to be saying that Renya did in the demon, there isn’t any lie within.

Also regarding the demon afterwards, if he were to complement it accurately, it would

be correct to say 「Though we fought, since I turned a blind eye towards the demon due to a deal, I couldn't kill him. The demon ran away」. But with likewise insufficient words here, it isn't a lie either.

As a matter of fact, Renya intended to insist on not talking as it would be a matter of life and death if he were to be exposed to be lying. But he conversely had a somewhat difficult feeling due to being released easily to the extent of it being a disappointment.

At the same time, had it been Rona using the spell <Deliberation>, he firmly pledges within his mind to be careful about the questions.

Probably the impact of the information that a demon appeared is overblown, although Renya had the leeway to pay attention to the details of his testimony, it probably ended up completely blowing away the guild's staff from the beginning.

The guild was heightened by a degree of accelerated chaos. While completely viewing it as somebody else's problem, Renya reported the completion of the request and submitted the evidence of the destroyed dungeon core. The reward for completing the request was 24 gold coins for all 4 parties. The reward for destroying the dungeon core was 10 gold coins. Furthermore the sale of the dungeon core yielded 60 gold coins. And with the reward of 6 gold coins for cooperating with the guild, he received 100 gold coins in total and left the guild.

CHAPTER 35

IT SEEMS TO BE SEQUEL 2

“And, what will Az’ group do?” (Renya)

Renya asks the magician, reading a book nearby, as he covers the lid of the earthenware jar where the produced yeast had been put in.

The place is the inn where Renya is staying at.

With the time being early afternoon, there are few customers and the inn’s interior is deserted with the vacant seats standing out.

At the same table as Renya, there were Shion and Rona alongside the figure of Az.

Deeply sitting on the chair, the figure of Az is painful to look at as he entrusts his feeble back to the chair.

He has bought a new grey robe, but as for the skin peeking out from the odds and ends, he is shrouded to a considerable extent with white bandages wrapping around him.

As for the close-by Renya, he ends up being disgusted by the drifting smell of medicine coming from those bandages, but he doesn’t complain about it and endures it as the other party is an injured person.

In contrast to this, Rona is in her usual priestess’ garb, however she also has bandages peeking out from her visible skin. The smell of medicine is only vague though.

But, with a face as if extremely worn-out, she is currently also stretching out her limp body on top of the table slovenly.



If it's this painful, it will be fine go sleep, though Renya thinks like that, it seems to be something she won't yield to.

The state of the two's injuries didn't actually have much of a differences. That's what the doctor in charge said after they returned to the city.

Although Renya didn't have an idea either which of the two had the more terrible injuries, he considered both their conditions to be mostly identical.

However, wondering whether it would be fine as that demonic researcher had done the treatment so they wouldn't die, Renya guessed that he stopped the recovery at roughly the same place with a degree of intention.

After regaining their consciousness, Rona healed her wounds with her own healing magic whereas Az chose to cure them using the medical ointments prescribed by the doctor.

You can say this is the difference in their present condition.

As for magic, the generally used healing magic holds an effect of healing the wounds of the target in exchange for consuming their stamina.

Therefore, Rona, who applied healing in one go, expended plenty of stamina as a result and that's what causes her to be tormented by a heavy, tired feeling.

"What we will do, it is?" (Az)

Az asks back raising his view from the page of the book he read.

Az, who has absolutely no confidence in his stamina, politely refused the offer to be treated with healing magic by Rona. Since he chose to slowly recover, his appearance is pitiful, but he hasn't an exhausted facial expression like Rona.

Even the type of pain, since the medical ointment has a paralysing effect to some degree, he felt discomfortable. *It seems to be less painful than I thought.*

"Your party members will retire from being adventurers, I guess?" (Renya)

Their lives aren't in a serious condition, but on top of loosing with parts of their bodies, they experienced being crushed and swallowed by those huge lumps of flesh. It gave

Az' party members a considerable trauma with the difference in the degree of being greater or lesser.

Even if only their lives were saved, there are some earnings. The four guards of Az took this time's reward and suggested to return to the countryside quitting their lives as adventurers.

All of them, before they became adventurers, apparently originate from a certain farmer's village. It seems they will return to that village and help with the occupation of their families.

At the time they thanked Az for being indebted to him until now, we left almost everything of our own share to the four.

It wasn't a great amount of money when divided by the number of people, but even so Az laughed that it would become at least money to cover the costs of preparing to do agriculture in the countryside.

"That's right. My party has dissolved." (Az)

Although Az said this as if not really minding it, the faces of the three became gloomy hearing this.

There is no way that the matter of his party, which was active until now, breaking up isn't on Az' mind.

Even so, without changing his expression, it isn't clear whether he came to a clear decision of not changing it while worrying about the situation or whether he is conversely paying attention to not fuss about it too much to Renya's group.

"Though it's a plain question, but do you want to come with us?" (Renya)

Renya asks with the intention to persuade Shion and Rona at once, if he receives a favourable answer.

"Thank you for the proposal, but." (Az)

Changing his smile to a bitter smile, Az shook his head.

"Is there already a particular party you have been invited to?" (Renya)

“In fact there is a place I want to work at. I don’t plan on quitting to be an adventurer, but I intend to rely on them for some time.” (Az)

“Hee. Where is it?” (Renya)

“It’s a school.” (Az)

As Az says, there seems to be a school for nurturing adventurers in Kukrika. For a long time there had been talks about him becoming a temporary teacher there.

Since he was devoting himself towards his job as adventurer, he declined it, but because he was even told it would be fine once he had some free time, he intends to work there for some time at this long-awaited opportunity.

In fact he has experience. It can also be said that he is a magician possessing a reasonable competency. Given that he has never been in quite the position of something like being a school teacher, the school’s side has kept inviting him aiming for breaks in his usual life.

“A school for training adventurers~ ... Will you teach them such things as the manners of adventuring?” (Renya)

Renya says as the situation is that the school was also training somehow worthless people.

“That’s not it. Even if you are born in a noble household, the third, fourth, fifth sons etc. can’t succeed the household as they aren’t even material for marriage. Won’t those become adventurers?” (Az)

The eldest son succeeds the house. The second son assists him or in case of the eldest son’s premature death the second son remains as substitute in the household.

However there are many cases of strife over inheritance if the third son and further down remain in the family. They will become a hindrance if they do that as there are the eldest and second sons. Usually they are driven out of the house as soon as they reach a certain age. Or they voluntarily leave the house by themselves, Az explains.

At this point, the, to a certain degree, highly excellent people become something like government officials by themselves. If they aren’t deemed acceptable for this or aren’t even able to do this due to their abilities even if they want to, they have no other choice

but to stay afloat as adventurers.

In the case of them being a woman, they will become material to be married into another family. But if they have a character which has no admirer, or if they are someone with a problematic shape of face, or if they are someone who ran away because they couldn't bear the idea of being married for their parent's convenience, they will easily become adventurers.

"Well, there are also situations where the eldest and second sons enrol and train at the school itself until they succeed the house." (Az)

Az said they also teach general education since it isn't a good thing if you end up making something foolish as adventurer.

"This sort of the noble's aspects, huh? ... It feels depressing~" (Renya)

Renya says this while looking at Rona with a glance. Rona noticed that gaze towards her own direction, but after she pondered for a moment what the heck he might mean with that, she shook her head as it was troublesome to think about it.

Although he tried to turn his view somehow downwards towards the adventurers, who are female nobles hating to marry, it seems they want to tell him that they are different for some reason.

If he tries to name it, Shion is an extraordinarily beautiful girl, that is only if she stays silent.

As he opens his mouth like a military man, he ended up being frank at a dumb spot. *Even if you deduct, for argument's sake, that they are noble daughters, it definitely doesn't mean that it is popular to be introduced into marriage, I guess.*

Even if they ran away to free themselves from that, it would be easy to imagine that there would be as many pursuers as there are stars in the night.

"The job of nurturing talented people is very important. Though I think it is immense work, please do your best." (Shion)

Shion said this.

Renya vaguely guessed that Emil's medical treatment of Shion was perfunctory, but

her injuries themselves mostly vanished. She was told as first that it is alright to return to the city by the doctor.

As far as Rona tried to secretly examine her, there wasn't even any necessity for healing magic. She also didn't catch a cold which Renya was worried about.

Although, as a result, he was troubled over his judgement whether he should acknowledge her to be an amazing swordswoman as she didn't receive that much of damage from Emil's blow or whether this was due to her being pointlessly sturdy. As for Shion, she seemed to be disappointed about not being able to do anything against a demon as opponent. Every day after returning to the city she goes to the training school within the guild's facilities devoting herself to swing the sword until she gets tired.

"If you need some help, feel free to contact me. I will help out if it's something I am capable of." (Renya)

"Thank you for this offer. I will rely on you at that time. Now that I think about it, I haven't earned any money from the job this time, but it's a great harvest to have a relation with you." (Az)

Closing the book he began to read, Az put it on the table while laughing. With a face that won't lower his evaluation as very tricky magician, he made sure to entice Renya into laughing as well albeit only a little.

"With this it's enough about me. I guess, Renya's group will continue the adventurer occupation without a change?" (Az)

"That's right. For the time being our first goal is to earn money for the sake of obtaining a base." (Renya)

"This time's... reward was reasonable, but... it's still not... enough..." (Rona)

Rona is in a state of gasping.

With her voice as if squeezing out the words, the other three harbour the fear *Isn't she in a barely alive condition?*

"Base... something like a house? That is certainly something even an adventurer desires." (Az)

“It is the outcome of our discussions, but since all members are planning to live there, it is indispensable for it to be fairly large.” (Renya)

“Is that so? It also is a honourable social status to live together with two women underneath a single roof.” (Az)

“At best it will be only hardships”, as Az ridiculed him, Renya stopped him by facing him with a dejected facial expression.

At any rate, this time it was a dangerous job, Renya looked up at the ceiling while thinking about it.

If they made a single mistake, they would have been turned into Emil’s experimental materials. It was a situation where you couldn’t exclude such possibility. If they had encountered a warrior instead of a whimsical researcher, they would have died after all. It was such a job.

Beyond earning money, even if it unavoidable to have some risk, we should get requests with a little lower degree of difficulty, he ends up assessing earnestly.

After all is said and done, this time was the first time for Renya to officially receive work from the guild.

With this being his first job, half of his companions died. No matter how you even think about it, it was too unlucky to end up running into a demon.

“Only a fool relies on good luck. But calling forth bad luck is foolish as well. As for me, it is more suitable to keep it moderate and appropriate. If I am to live to protect the promise with that little girl, this much will be fine, but... I wonder if it isn’t possible to lead a more comfortable life?” (Renya)

He questions in a small mutter that can’t be heard by anyone. Without anyone listening to it after all, it dissolved in the air and vanished.



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